

Section Notes

Please email your notes to
scott@bigga.co.uk
by the 5th
of the month

All the latest news from your Section

Around The Green



Scottish Region



Ayrshire

Hello all, Hope you've all enjoyed the recent good weather and hopefully it has continued through 'Open week'. At time of writing Roger Federer has just outlasted the courageous Andy Roddick and the '09 Claret Jug holder is two weeks away.

Having worked at Turnberry for seven years, it seems we've been preparing for ages and it is exciting now to think the moment is upon us! I'm sure if the weather obliges that all involved that week will have had an enjoyable time and a worthy winner will have been found. I'll try to give a better account after the dust has settled.

Cathkin Braes GC hosted the Scottish National Tournament on June 11. Over 80 Greenkeepers played the well presented course in glorious sunshine. Willie McMeikan (Turnberry) took second in the First Class and Duncan Gray (Pines) was so confident of retaining his Second Class Trophy, he left it on his mantlepiece! Well done to those Ayrshire boys and to the Greens Staff at Cathkin for an immaculate course.

Warm sunshine greeted over two dozen greenkeepers for a walk round the Ailsa Course on July 1. George Brown took us through the first six holes and relayed the thinking behind the changes to the course and passed on some of his beliefs gained over 50+ years in the profession. Thereafter, Head Greenkeeper, Martin Lothian and

I endeavoured to answer any queries.

Everyone seemed impressed

with what could be achieved if you kept the golfers off the course for eight months! Seriously though, it was great to catch up with some familiar faces and also to meet some new ones who had travelled considerable distances in most cases to be there. Truly dedicated greenkeepers who all have a great deal of pride in their profession. Only wished there'd been more time afterwards to shoot the breeze.

Congratulations to my friend and colleague Kenny Morgan and his fiancée, Aileen, on the birth of their first child, a little girl named Mirren.

That's all for now, any constructive criticism or "atta boys" to denis.t@hotmail.co.uk or 07939 104701.



West

Welcome to this month's report. It's great to see some better weather for a change watering greens and fairways turning brown. I apologise for the lack of reports over the last couple of months, which has been due to family illness.

During May the Greenkeepers played the Secretaries in our annual match at Strathaven Golf Club. The result on the day was a resounding win for the greenkeepers seven and a half to one and a half. Well done to the greenkeepers who played on the day and better luck next year to the secretaries. My own two ball was the only team to be beaten on the day. Hopefully I can keep my place for 2010.

The course was in first class condition for so early in the season so many congratulations to the green staff, also to the catering staff for the first class service and standard of food.

Our spring meeting was held at Caldwell Golf Club on a glorious sunny day, there were 38 members in attendance the scores on the day were:

Scratch- Alastair Reed 74
1st Class 1. Gavin Jarvis 36pts
2. Drew McKechnie 35pts
3. Scott Ballantyne 34pts.

2nd Class 1. Sandy Brawley 39pts
2. Fraser Ross 36pts
3. Barry McCulloch 34pts

3rd Class. Michael Maxton 37pts
2. Kevin Cross 36pts
3. James McLean 36pts

Apprentice prize Brian Ramsey 28pts, Trade prize Stuart Clayton, Scotlube, 35pts
Visitors' prize Ryan Brenan, 12pts

Congratulations to all the prize winners, also many thanks to the Captain of Caldwell Golf Club for giving us courtesy of the course; to Kenny Morrison, Club Manager, for all his help and to Paul McNair and his team for having the course in fantastic condition.

Also to the catering staff the food was fantastic especially the fish and chips better than you get in the chip shop.

Our Scottish National Tournament was held over Cathkin Braes Golf Club once again the sun was out for the 90 players in attendance, the course was in great condition many congratulations to Douglas McIntosh and his team.

As I said earlier on in the year we plan to arrange some seminars towards the end of the year dates will be made available as soon as possible.

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North

Hope all is well and that every-

one is keeping busy. You can't complain about the weather we've had recently although having said that it has begun to cool down a bit in the last few days.

This is a true story honest, it will make you laugh! John Geddes from MacDonald Golf Club, Ellon, recently attended a match versus the Secretaries' Association, at Strathaven Golf Club. While driving back home, John's companion saw a deer emerge from a wooded area at the side of the road, bounding straight for them. John's companion panicked and shouted "John... Deer", John thought his companion was going to strike up a conversation about Green's Machines and never saw the deer. Unfortunately seconds later the said deer ended up on John's front bumper. What are the chances of that? Thankfully both John and his companion, James McCormack, were not injured. However, if anyone is looking for some cheap venison you know who to ask.

The Scottish National Tournament was held at Cathkin Braes GC and four members from our Section travelled down the night before as you do. They ended up at Hamilton races and the aforementioned James McCormack showed the other guys the ropes. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves but any tips that James gave them didn't come in so they were pretty skint for the next day's golf.

Speaking of outings we have our own Autumn outing courtesy of Alyth GC. Hopefully there will be a good turn out for Brian Cocker, he has been a great supporter of the Section over the years and it would be good if we could show our appreciation with a healthy turn out. We are looking forward to it.

Stu Addison, from Meldrum House GC, has become a dad. Congratulations on behalf of the Section His new baby girl, Hannah Louise, weighed in at

8lbs 7ozs and both mother and baby are doing well.

Wee Davie Merchant, from Murcar Links GC, recently got married to the love of his life, Stacey. Congratulations from the Section. It was a good do with lads from both Murcar and Royal Aberdeen attending so there was plenty of banter between both squads!

That's really all there is this month, short and sweet. If anyone does have any news or funny stories then drop me a line, I'll try and put it into words whatever it is. Cheers

Ben Brookes
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Central

Congratulations to George Brown and the team for a great Open and everyone in the Central Section wishes both George all the best for his future and Euan Grant, his successor, the same. I'm sure we'll still see and hear of George for a few years yet despite him being put out to (green and stripey) grass!

The main focus of the report this month is the education events the Section is running for you, the members. We really need your support for these to be a success as we cannot afford to run them at a loss, therefore if we cannot get adequate names we will have to pull the plug on them. We appreciate times are tough on the economic front but we have secured subsidies from the BIGGA education fund and the cost of attending these events have been dramatically reduced from what people would normally have to pay. Training is often the first thing to be shelved when money is tight but the most successful companies don't take that view and realise the long term benefit providing good education to their staff brings.

We have training on how to conduct investigations and disciplinary meetings in October on the morning of the AGM, a two day environmental course in November and how to carry out staff appraisals in December.

Full details are on the website www.biggacentralsection.com <<http://www.biggacentralsection.com/> Please support us

and make the events a success by enrolling for these classes now.

Gordon Moir

Northern Region

North Wales

I'm sitting in front of this silly computer hoping that it doesn't freeze and I lose my article for the THIRD TIME! So far, so good.

This month is the height of our season with our courses facing a daily barrage of visiting parties, members' competitions and juniors trying to fit 12 months of fixtures into the school holidays.

The annual North Wales/North West match took place at Bolton Golf Club in June and on an excellent course North Wales reclaimed the trophy they lost last year (YES!). Congratulations to all the golfers who played so well, also a big thank you has to go to Bolton Golf Club for providing such a fantastic course, food and facilities.

Terry Adamson has asked me to let you know that he will be running another pest control course in the autumn, I went on the last one and very informative it is too! Anyone interested in signing up for the one day course please contact Terry.

In local news, Ian Farrall, Paul Gator and Carl Crocher of Caldry Golf Club entered a team for the Wirral Bikeathon and raised over £300 for Leukaemia Research. Carl's son, Max, replaced one of his staff who had to drop out at the last minute, with 28 miles covered.

Paul Gator's wife gave birth to their second daughter in June. Mother, Janet, and Isabel are doing fine.

Stuart Mason, Assistant Head Greenkeeper at Padeswood and Buckley Golf Club, got married in May in St Hilary's Church, Llanrhos, Llandudno followed by a reception at The Quay Hotel and Spa, Deganwy.

That's about it for this month, please keep putting your news in to me it's a real pleasure to know that you do read this stuff and don't just shove it straight in to the recycling bin.

ALL THE BEST UNTIL NEXT MONTH.

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Sheffield

Hello again everyone, my apologies for the lack of news in last month's magazine, things caught up with me a little and I was a bit late sending them.

I shall and try and redeem myself in this month's edition. On the Section front everything is running as smooth as possible, things are a little quite at this time of the year as everyone is really busy. Over the next couple of months I will be organising speakers for our winter lectures and will be finalising some other dates for Section events. Everyone will be informed of these events later in the year.

The Section has held two golf events up to now this year, firstly I would like to thank our two sponsors so far this year, Pro Turf and Mansfield Sand. A massive thanks go to all our sponsors for their continued support of the Section. Secondly I would like to thank both sets of greenkeepers at Hallowes and Lees Hall for providing us with superb conditions to play in.

Results: Hallowes G.C 1. I. Whitehead, 36pts; 2. S. Dye, 36pts; 3. R. Jones, 35pts; Trade. M. Brear 29 pts.

Sponsor - Pro Turf

Lees Hall G.C. Gross. R. Jones, 68; Nett. S. Pickering, 88; 3. J. STEVENS 72- Well done Jim! Trade. I. Benn 66

Sponsor - Mansfield Sand

That is all from me this month. Once again if anyone one has any news for me please don't hesitate in contacting me. Hope you all have a good August, I certainly will if Wednesday pick up three points against Barnsley in the first game.

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Northern

As I am sitting down to write this month's report we are just getting to the end of the hottest heatwave we have had for years - a massive 32 degrees!! The Government has given us

warnings that we must stay out of the sun because of the heat but is it just me or does anybody else think that 32 is just a nice summers day? Some places in the world got up to 56 degrees on the same day. Now that is hot. So let's stop moaning about the weather we have and just get on with the job! Rant over.

July 1 was the date for this year's Presidents Day Tournament at Branshaw Golf Club. The turn out of just 20 players was a huge disappointment for what turned out to be a fantastic day in the sun.

The winners on the day were: Div 1. 1. R Harris; 2. S. Mason; D. Collins. Div 2. President's Trophy - A. Baxter. 1. A. Holroyde; S. Trowsdale; 3. R Smith. Div 3. 1. J Baxter; 2. P. Colley; D. Cockburn. Trade. 1. A. Martin; 2. I. Collet. Nearest the Pins. R. Harris and S. Mason

A huge thank you must go to Ed and his team and every body at Branshaw for the fantastic course and warm welcome we received. Thank you also to Bob Wild Grass Machinery for their continued support and sponsorship if the President's Tournament.

The next event on the calendar is Invitation Day which will be held at Howley Hall Golf Club on Tuesday, August 25 and is a 9.30 start. Can I please remind you all to get your names and payment in as soon as possible.

If you have any news you wish to share with the Section then please get in touch.

Adam Speight
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Midland Region



Midland

What's this I hear? The quiet unassuming gentle Phil Nixon is off on a gambling spree to the capital of decadence, Las Vegas. By God the wages at Penn must have improved somewhat since Millsy took over, or has the club's budget suddenly gone up! Oh, the reason for the vacation is that Phil is getting married by Elvis to Rachael on the 28th. Congratulations to you both and good luck for the future my friend. "I'm all shook up".

Our summer event was held

at one of my old haunts, Harborne G.C. I must congratulate J. Gilchrist and his fine team on the wonderful condition of the course. It hasn't been that good since 1999! The other players and I all greatly enjoyed the whole day, and a huge thanks to Harborne G.C. and to the fine company of its elected dignitary, Mr.R.Waddington, (time has only slightly mellowed you sir). The results of the day were; Best Gross: M. Hughes. Nett; 1. M. Cutler. 2. J. Gilchrist. 3. M. Hughes. 4. Slim Kid/R. Beacham. 5. A. Brougham. 6. R. Thomas. Our thanks to British Seed House for their generous sponsorship of the main prize table. To give us mere mortals a fighting chance at a prize longest drive has now been replaced with all par-3's N.T.Pers which is sponsored by our old friends N.Tyler/Sherriff Amenity. The winners being; D.Unerhill, P.Mills, and H.Middlebrook(on the toughest par-3 I've ever come across). Well done to all and once again thanks Jim and team and of course my old friend Harborne G.C. Congratulations sexy bhoy Steve on your vernal new arrival, Ruby.

Now, I hear that the local greengrocers to Myerscough College are rather worried regarding their sales of apples, such being due to the fact that P. Woodham has now passed his Foundation Degree with distinctions and has also been awarded the "Barenburg Award" as the top teacher's pet/turfgrass student. Also our humble Chairman, Ed, has also graduated in the same course with distinctions, but missed out on teacher's pet. I know you tried, Ed, never mind. Congratulations to you both, it's about time you both became educated.

As many of you know we have a slight irritation regarding one of this year's calendar photos, but let us leave them where they lay. It is wonderfully refreshing that this month's sponsor's; North Staffs Irrigation Ltd. have embraced the photo of the extremes that we all have to deal with good humour, and such also depicts the value of both good irrigation and drainage services. Please consider them for your water needs; www.northstaffsirrigration.co.uk <http://www.northstaffsirrigration.co.uk/>.

And finally, the Section would

like to wish all the very best to Melissa Jones (Assist Ed GI) who is leaving HQ to have a little one. Good luck, lass.

Sean McDade



Mid-Anglia

Not much news for you this month I'm afraid, but golf calendar is as follows:- Mid-Herts GC host us in the Autumn on October 7th and we go to John O'Gaunt GC in December for the Turkey Trot.

If you, or your staff, are interested in participating in any courses or training programmes, please contact Gerald, at Berkhamsted GC, to enquire further. There is quite often funding available and if not already catered for, special training/courses can be arranged.

If anyone has an item of interest, news or information that they would like to put into this column please contact me as all contributions are welcome.

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Craig Spooner



BB&O

What a Gem! Oakland Park GC in all its green splendour was a fantastic venue for The Gem Summer Rose Bowl Tournament held on June 24. Oakland Park located in South Bucks is a privately owned family business with 18 holes set in pleasantly undulating parkland on the edge of the Chilterns, with a combination of outstanding beauty and designed by the highly acclaimed Jonathan Gaunt, provided an excellent golfing experience.

After a few olives and a pink gin, Clive Parnell, from Gem Professional, presented the prizes to the winners

The results were as follows. In 3rd place was Adam King with 36 points, in 2nd was Joe Drummond 37 points and in 1st place Ben the Bandit Griffins

with 42 points.

Nearest the Pin, Dave Searles and Stewart Clayton, Longest Drive, Paul Hedger and Clive Parnell and James Wilkinson pinching the Nearest the Pin in 2.

Thank you to Oakland Park GC for courtesy of the course and the excellent traditional home made menu served by the Oakland catering department. The course was in tip top condition and credit to Dominic Lewis and all the Oakland green staff for their efforts in preparing the course which was much appreciated by all.

Chris Slimm, from Harleyford GC, has just joined the first time dad club, his partner, Nicki, has just given birth to first child, Isla, Mother and daughter are doing very well.

On the Harleyford G.C. front, I was sent a photo of a Kangaroo roaming the golf course, Yes I say, roaming the golf course was a Kangaroo, and according to Simon Marsh this is no hoax, the wee little beastie is no bother at all but no one knows how or when he arrived, a likely story I hear you say, a likely story, I just keep saying that! But it's true! Likely story.

Simon Marsh has been hard at work and has organised two educational days out, first we have a day at DLF Trifolium who are the largest and fastest growing grass seed company in the UK, DLF have over 100 years experience in plant breeding and seed production and we have a chance to visit there manufacturing facilities by way of a guided tour. Cost for the day will be £ 5.00 and will include lunch and refreshments, details will be on the website soon, numbers will be limited; date for this will be on October 7.

On November 25, TH White has organised a day out to Ransomes Ipswich in Suffolk. Ransomes Jacobsen manufactures an extensive range of turf maintenance equipment and utility vehicles to meet the needs of today's grounds care professionals.

Ransomes have a state of the art manufacturing facility where we will be given a guided tour of the factory with a fascinating insight to the production of various machines.

The company also have a new 3 hole testing facility, Created over two hectares of heath land

and scrub, each green and teeing areas has been constructed with different profiles and grass types including fescue, fescue and bent and creeping bent - an example of what can be achieved on a small parcel of land.

Please book early for this as numbers will be limited; cost will be £5 and will include transport from T.H.White with lunch and refreshments.

Just a quick reminder, as you are reading this article, have you forgotten that on August 13 at Donnington Valley GC the Autumn Invitational Team Event is about to take place, so a last minute entry may be available, get in touch if you can make it.

If any member has any news or views they would like to share, or would like more information about the section and forthcoming events you only have to check out bbogreenkeepers.co.uk

Mark Day

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South East

East Anglia

Apologies for not having Notes in recently but there was a problem at HQ's end.

Nearly 60 souls played (I use the term loosely) Rookery Park Golf Club, in April. Unfortunately, I was not there, but I have it from a reliable source (if you can call someone with a star spangled belt reliable) that the course was in excellent condition thanks to Mall Henderson and his crew.

The scores are as follows:-

0 - 9 Handicap 1. Joe Simpson, 36 pts on countback; 2. G. Hurren, 36 pts; 3. Ben Wallis, 35 pts 10 - 18 Handicap 1. Jamie Gill, 36 pts; 2. Mark Clements, 32 pts; 3. Asa Barber, 31 pts. 19 - 28 Handicap 1. Richard Mitchell, 30 pts; 2. Andrew Baker, 29 pts; 3. Keith Titchell, 28 pts. G & T's (ice & a slice) 1. Sean Payne, 38 pts; 2. David Lord, 35 pts

There were several nearest the pins, as follows:- 4th Sponsored by Baileys of Norfolk - Mark Clements; 9th Sponsored by

Bartram Mowers – David Lord (sand wedge); 14th Sponsored by Spearhead – Norman Fenwick.

There were also several longest drives as follows:- 5th Sponsored by Baileys – Ben Wallis (2 iron for safety); 7th Sponsored by Bartrams – Matthew Gill (down wind); 18th Sponsored by Spearhead – Norman Fenwick.

Our thanks again to Rookery Park Captain, David Wright, and Secretary, Richard Jones. Our main sponsors for the day were Bartram Mowers. The cavalry, as always, were: Baileys of Norfolk, Aitkens, SISIS, Sherriff, Spearhead, Virtax, Ben Burgess, Ernest Doe's, Tacit and Rigby Taylor. Thank you all. If, however, I have missed someone out, please let me know.

PS. There was no mention of a loo seat, so I guess you all behaved yourselves! In the absence of a loo seat however, I did notice there were a lot of 'nil' returns but Rob Boyce had the courage to put his card in with 8 points on it, so I think he should get a medal for bravery and he should be an inspiration for all you chickens. Well done Rob for soldering on in the face of adversity.

A mere 70 souls descended upon Thetford Golf Club. A bit showery, (I'm talking about the weather) but a terrific day, on a lovely course. Well presented as ever by Paul Gould and his team.

Some people, as always, played just that bit better than me and collected the silverware as follows:-

- 0 – 9 Handicap:
- 1st Alan Elliott 35 points
- 2nd Alan Carter 34 points – Good to see him back.
- 3rd Michael Buck 34 points
- 10 – 18 Handicap:
- 1st Richard Plummer 31 points
- 2nd Glen Rayfield 30 points
- 3rd Mark Broughton 30 points
- 19 – 28 Handicap:
- 1st Ray Goodsall 31 points
- 2nd Andy Baker 29 points
- 3rd Steve Freestone 29 points
- Longest drive – 13th – Mark Keysell – Sponsored by Spearhead.
- Longest drive – 18th – Gavin Merrison – Sponsored by Baileys.
- Nearest the pin – 3rd – Roy Britton – Sponsored by Spearhead.
- Nearest the pin – 16th Guy Baker – Sponsored by Baileys.

The main sponsors for the day

were:- Ernest Doe & Son.

The support team as always were: Bartram Mowers, Aitkens, Tacit, Ben Burgess (Newmarket & Norwich), Tomlinson Groundcare, Baileys of Norfolk, Spearhead Turf, Rigby Taylor, Sherriff, Symbio, Collier Turf Care, Hayter, Force Limogran and Bury Turf Care.

After a brief discussion (20 seconds) the 'Loo Seat' was awarded to Ian for crashing his buggy. Apparently he got off it, played his shot and there it was – gone – hit nearest tree.

There was one other nominee put up by someone who shall remain nameless (but he is a lemon!) He suggested that Paul Gould (Head Honcho Thetford) should get the seat for putting the pins in the wrong place. How can you give the host a loo seat after presenting a course like that? I thought they were mates!

Thanks to Club Captain, Martin Engwell, for making the speech and Andy Turbin, of Ernest Doe, for presenting the prizes.

Thank you Thetford for a lovely day.

Mick Lathrope



Surrey

Monday, July 7. After months of reading, reviewing, price-checking, mind-changing and utter confusion, I have, you will be astonished to hear, chosen and booked the holiday for myself and she who must be obeyed. Only time will tell if my decision to go cruising on the Baltic is the right choice, for now there is no turning back, the deposit has been paid and therefore my fate to meet Fred Olsen Line's equivalent of Captain Pugwash, Master Bates and Seaman Staines is sealed. A paragraph in the November edition will carry my extended report, icebergs permitting.

Congratulations to Robert Summers for completing 40 years in Surrey Greenkeeping at Kingswood GC, RAC Golf and Country Club and Epsom GC. Robert admitted that he must

hold the record for care of equipment, for, similar to Trigger and his broom, in all those years he has only had one rake.

Eddy Oliver has broken a club record at Liphook GC, the details of which I do not know but I am sure that when you see him at the next golf day, he will be glad to fill you in, many, many times.

Baby of the month is Emily Heather Allpress 7lbs 6ozs, born on Friday July 3 at 6.05 am. Emily and her mother, Nicole, are both well and are looking forward to seeing Ashley, the proud husband and father, as soon as he stops emailing the news to everybody in the universe. His shouts of "we've only gone and done it" will echo around the course at West Surrey GC for months to come. Congratulations to you all from all Surrey members.

Brian Willmott



Sussex

The Sussex Section enjoyed a wonderful days golf for its Spring event at Pyecombe Golf Club. The rain held off until the last players were in but the top of the Sussex Downs on a windy day can provide really testing conditions for golf.

The day was sponsored by John Shaw (Machinery) Ltd and Steve Vogles was of course there to present the prizes. Pyecombe is situated in spectacular downlands and Course Manager, Simon Wells, had provided the Section with a golf course in wonderful condition in keeping with the surroundings. His efforts, I should add, were matched by the Catering Staff at the evening meal! Before the evening meal the Section remembered Derek Coomber, a stalwart of the Sussex Section and of BIGGA, who had recently passed away.

The winner of the best gross score was Laurie Tremlett with Glen Pollard and Duncan Hayes in second and third places. The best nett score was won by Rob Hudson with Eric Green and Darren Mitchell taking the minor places. The Longest Drive was won by Laurie Tremlett and

Nearest the Pin by Gary Ogilvie. Laurie and Rob, the two winners also won free entry in to the BIGGA National Championship, to be held at Burnham and Berrow Golf Club, in October.

The next event for the Sussex Section will be held at East Brighton Golf Club on August 6.

Derek Farrington



Kent

As the much needed rain comes down in flowing torrents in this part of the world restoring some colour to our green and pleasant courses, we can all breathe a collective sigh of relief as the recent hot and dry spell had certainly started to take its toll on our non-irrigated areas! At least the fine weather has brought the golfers flocking back to our courses though. A very welcome sight in these difficult times.

One course that has definitely not suffered is The London Club which I have had the pleasure of playing today. Indeed, the course was still in its tip-top condition following its recent staging of The European Open which was a hugely successful event producing a worthy champion yet again. The tees, rough, bunkers and greens were all perfectly presented and a joy to play on. The only comment I can make on the too narrow (for me!) fairways was that they looked great from a distance! Think I'll stick to yellow tees in future! A very praiseworthy effort from our esteemed National Chairman, Peter Todd and his trusty right-hand man Glenn Kirby. Incidentally, both these gentleman are the subject of further news. Firstly, many congratulations to Glenn and his other half on the birth of his daughter, Cerys. I know he was hoping to take some time to make the most of these precious early stages of baby's development but, unfortunately, Peter has managed to break his leg while vaulting a fence meaning poor old Glenn has double the workload and half the required sleep! Get well soon, Peter and well done and thanks to Glenn

for a great test of golf today.

Meanwhile, the Kent Section year continues and another great event under our belts at the superb Tenterden Golf Club. Set deep in the heartland of rural Kentish countryside this great course provided the perfect venue for our ardent travellers.

An early arrival for most was rewarded by Vic Maynard regaling us with tales of his birthday the previous week and what he had been bought by his colleagues as a present. This publication is far too up market for me to divulge the intimacy of said gift but suffice to say that it sounded like the perfect travelling companion for a sales rep on his lonely nights in a Travelodge! Vic was soon down at the first tee, however, to get us started with his usual array of suitable refreshments ensuring this well attended event was enjoyed by all.

Gary Branchett and his stalwart team had certainly saved some of the most challenging pin positions for us resulting in local knowledge being the deciding factor in the results table. 1. Gary Branchett, 41 pts; 2. Matt Gray, 34pts; 3. Wayne Syers 33 points Nearest Pin - Duncan Kelso

Somehow during the barrage of laughter that seemed to be had by all one of our founder members, John "Old Man" Fullager, managed to bag himself a hole-in-one at the 5th.

There was some disagreement about how many trees the ball struck before eventually finding the cup but it said "One" on the card and that's all that matters, eh mate! It honestly couldn't happen to a nicer bloke. Well done, mate.

My group were treated to Kev Morris's Heath Robinson-like ideas for the next series of Dragon's Den. Fuelled by Vic's plentiful scotch, Kev's inventive mind went into overdrive and expect to see a twin-sim phone, golf club carrying pushchairs and non-chafing, string golf shorts on a high street near you soon!

After our round, a hearty meal ensued to which we were very grateful to all at Tenterden Golf Club and, indeed, for all their hospitality throughout the day. Well done to Gary Branchett for the condition of the course and to his lovely daughter who joined us in the evening!

Many thanks also to several supporting trade companies for prizes on the day. They were, Headland Amenity, Tacit, T. Parker, Scotts and Ernest Doe's.

These days just keep getting better. Don't miss out on our next event in September at Redlubits. It's going to be a cracker!

Best of British
Rob Holland



South West

June 24th saw the first full Section event of the year with the Summer Tournament. This was played at Kingsdown Golf Club in perfect weather conditions, and on a perfect golf course. Mark Ford and his team did us proud on a tidy golf course with firm fast greens, generous fairways, (but rather punishing rough if you don't mind my saying so Mark - I like my rough well cut-back!) Thanks very much to Kingsdown Golf Club for their hospitality for the day and thanks to all competitors who made the day such a success.

Congratulations to all the prize winners, in particular Josh Loughrey, from Wrag Barn, who shot a gross 71 off scratch to qualify for the National Championship at Burnham & Berrow in October. Thanks also to the Patronage Partners who attended the Dinner and prizegiving.

1. Jon Jarvis, Lansdown, nett 71; 2. Roger Neale, Taunton & Pickeridge, 72. 3. Jordan Mein, Taunton & Pickeridge, 72. Qualifier Josh Loughrey, Wrag Barn, 71 gross.

Unfortunately neither Chris Sealey nor myself were able to stay for the presentation etc, so many thanks to Nobby (again...) for officiating so well. In the meantime, Chris and I were travelling "up north" to Hoylake for a Farmura-sponsored seminar covering the latest research on dry patch and fairy rings. The links at Hoylake (or Royal Liverpool to give its correct title) were in sublime condition with 30 yard wide fairways and a single

cut of semi-rough either side, and then jungle type rough. Bunkers were immaculately revetted pits with turf faces up to six feet in height. Awesome and scary at the same time.

The seminar was very interesting with a series of top speakers from both the UK and overseas. Dr Mike Findanza, Agronomist, and Dr Joe Kostka, from Aquatrols. Both highly regarded experts in their fields, and neither one to walk past a fairy ring without stopping to take a picture. Couple these with Steve Isaac, of the R&A, and Dr Ruth Mann, from the STRI, and you have wall-to-wall experts. Our thanks to Farmura for laying on such an interesting day at such a notable venue. If all goes according to plan - these gentlemen will be back in the UK for the Cannington Seminar in November.

I was pressed into service at National Board level at the beginning of June when the news came though that Peter Todd had unfortunately broken his leg. I chaired the Board Meeting, the EGM & Groundsman vote, and introduced the Neil Thomas Golf Day (where a lot of money was raised for Peter's nominated "Aspergers Syndrome" charity). I sat down on the Monday evening at about 6.30, with the intention of having a few quiet moments to skim through the minutes of the previous Board meeting, ahead of the 8.30am start on the Tuesday morning. I was still at it at 11.30pm before calling it a night.

As I think I said last time - if anyone thinks serving on the BIGGA Board is some kind of a "jolly" - forget it right now. I would just like to pass on my best wishes to Peter - he does such a lot of work for the Association behind the scenes, while all the time handling a big job at a big club.

Back in the Section - the training courses on Manual Handling, Safe use of tractor plus attachments, Excavator Safety Training are coming around fast. Full details will be circulated soon by email, and this will go into club offices also. The joint BIGGA GCMA seminar at the Kendleshire on September 30 is also fast approaching so watch for further details.

Finally, John Keenaghan is looking forward to playing host to the EGU English County

Finals September 25 - 27 at Chipping Sodbury. This is the only club in Gloucestershire ever to have staged this event so John is - in his own words - "really up for it". John would like to have the reassurance of a support team to help with the course - if anyone can spare a little time and is interested to see how a major Amateur event runs, please give John a call on 07779479869.

Any news from your areas would be gratefully received.

Paul Worster.

paulw@mgcnew.co.uk



Devon and Cornwall

Our summer meeting took place on June 18 at Woodbury Park Golf & Country Club where the second annual match between Devon & Cornwall was contested. Thanks to Symbio and Sports Metal represented by Neil Carter and Richard Japes for their sponsorship for the day.

The match took place on the championship course and was very keenly contested with Cornwall eventually winning five games to three. There was also an individual Stableford competition within the match which was won by Nick Olds, from West Cornwall, with 41pts, winning on countback from Simon Sanders, from Woodbury, with Brian Ridgeway, from Fingle Glen, third with 38pts. Nearest the Pin on the 3rd was won by Nick Olds, on the 18th won by Dan Townsend. Nearest the pin in two on the 13th was claimed by Matt Richards and the longest drive on the 14th won by Rob Cook, well done to all.

Thank you to Woodbury Park and its owner Robin Hawkins for their wonderful hospitality for the day, and to the catering staff for the splendid meal. Thanks also to Ian Chenery, Course Manager, Simon Sanders his assistant, and the rest of the team for the use of there wonderful course.

The presentation and prize giving took place after the meal with the Devon Captain, George Pitts, congratulating joint Corn-

wall Captains, Scott Gibson & Keith Kemp, on their success. Well done to Cornwall!
Jerry Cole



South Wales

Hi Everyone, Hope you are all well. First of all the Spring Tournament, which was held at Langland Bay GC. The weather once again threatened but after a few holes, the rain subsided, the sun came out and showed the course in all it's glory.

Results were: First: Darryl Jones (Glynneath GC) 36pts. Second: Ian Harwood (Langland Bay GC) 31 pts (21 on back nine!) Third: Darryl Bray (Morrison GC) 29pts. Nearest the pin: Wayne Benger (Glynhir GC.) Longest Drive: Peter Holstrom.

Trade/Guest Prize: Alan Phillips (Captain, Langland Bay.)

Thanks to Langland Bay GC for agreeing to hold the event and for the excellent evening meal. Also to Jim Jenkins, Course Manager, Ian Harwood and the rest of the Greenkeeping team for presenting the course superbly under difficult conditions. They had to have been without Ian for a while as he must have been practicing his golf! And I'm glad the day went well for Jim as it might just make up for his team getting relegated from the premiership last season!

Also a big Thank you to David Goldstone and Peter Lacey of Tower Chemicals for sponsoring the day. David was a bit unlucky in that his power caddy broke

down and he wasn't able to continue after the third hole. Rumour has it that that it didn't break down and it was just a case of David not wanting to play in the rain. I m sure that's not true! Anyway, thanks guys! Our golf days would be very difficult without sponsorship.

Back to the R.T Matchplay Tournament (The Road To Tenby) and the draw for the latest round was as follows: 1. Mark Wilshire/Mark Anderton V Tony Horne/Martyn David. . Steve Lloyd/Mark Wells V Paul Handy/Rhys Norville. 3. Rhys McDonagh/Gary Humphries V Merrion Griffiths/Glyn Jones. 4. Andy Roach/Gareth Knight V Darryl Bray/Leigh Davies or James White/Wayne Benger. Results will be printed in next months around the green.

On Thursday 13th of August, St Pierre Golf and Country Club once again plays host to the match between the South West Section and the South Wales Section(or Wurzels v The Taffs!) The South Wales

Section are keen to bring the cup back to Wales after losing last years match, although technically, it stayed in Steve Chappell's office as we didn't trust the South West to bring it back!

The match will be played on the revamped Mathen course and prizes will again be sponsored by my best mates Scotts UK Professional. The South Wales Team shirts will again be sponsored by James Rees of Inscapes.

I predict that the South Wales team will win and that the South West team will moan about paying the Severn Bridge toll! They dont mind paying for Magsners though! Joking aside, I m sure it's going to be a great day!

Ceri Richards



John Pemberton
Chief Executive

Having just returned from The Open at Turnberry it was pleasing to see George Brown and his team get the recognition that they deserve for the magnificent presentation of the course. What a superb way to finish a career and I wish George good luck in his semi-retirement. I say semi because as many of you will be aware, George will continue his connection with the facility in an ambassadorial role. Euan Grant is his very worthy successor and is, I am sure, looking forward to taking over the reins.

The newly formed British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association Limited commenced trading on July 1, taking over from its unincorporated predecessor. I wish to reinforce the message that this will in no way adversely affect members or the benefit of being a member and merely puts the Association on a proper business structure that will allow it to own assets and contracts in its own right rather than by proxy or through Trustees.

Contrary to belief by a small minority, who see this move as a panic measure for protection, the Association is not in dire financial trouble. Yes times are hard and yes we have had to make three jobs at Headquarters redundant, but we are managing the business and we are in control of the finances. BIGGA is no different to the vast majority of businesses today that are feeling the effect of the downturn in the world economy but the Board and Management are looking at developing new initiatives that will strengthen the business and that should present new opportunities.

One such initiative is the formation of an alliance with the PGA and the GCMA in order to develop and promote education and best practice in respect of golf club management. The three Associations will look at how they can also share resources and build on membership benefits through a unified approach to exhibitions, lifelong learning, suppliers, sponsors and funding agencies.

I am pleased to report that the annual golf day at Aldwark produced a surplus of £911 that has been donated to the Chairman's charity that is The National Autistic Society, with the particular reference towards aid with Asperger's Syndrome. I would like to once again thank Q Hotels for the courtesy of the course and a prize, Destination Harrogate for their prizes and the many sponsors of teas without whom the day would not have been viable.

As we move gradually into the second half of the year I wonder what has happened to the hot summer that the weather experts predicted earlier in the year!

John Pemberton
Chief Executive

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