

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



Central

The Section AGM will take place in the training rooms at Elmwood Golf Course on Monday, October 26. Full details are available on the website.

That morning the Section will be holding a seminar on disciplinary training at the same venue and at the time of going to press we still have a couple of spaces available.

This is an ideal course for Course Managers or Head Greenkeepers and their Deputies who have to deal with staffing issues. It will take people through the correct procedure in carrying out disciplinary investigations and hearings, thereby avoiding costly mistakes to both the employee and the employer. Subsidised by BIGGA HQ, the half day course costs £55.

To secure one of the remaining places contact me on gmoir@standrews.org.uk asap. More details are available on the website www.biggacentralsection.org.uk along with details of the STRI ecology course in November for which we are starting to receive some names for.

The Section autumn outing will have been held by the time you read this and the results will be on the website and appear in the next edition of the magazine,

Gordon Moir



East

Sorry about the last two months of our news from the east Section. We have now

found out the problem. BIGGA headquarters were experiencing problems downloading data from different systems and lost our news for the last two issues. All is fixed now and you can read what is going on in our Section.

We played our "Willie Woods Invitational tournament" at Kingsknowe GC, the format for the golf was fourball better ball and with 10 teams entered for our tournament the chances of winning were good.

I brought along as a partner - he says the best thing that came out of Fife - no prizes for guessing, Derek Scott, who came in as a late sub for Mike Denis who is over golfed just now.

We were drawn with the formidable pairing of "Toro Jim" and Rab Wilson, from Henderson's - you could sell tickets for this challenge.....well.

I think the combination of the big occasion and the windy conditions got to both sides, and the game did not materialise into what might have been called the "Dual in the Wind". It was more like "Gone with the Wind". We came out the victors in this battle with more golf balls left than Jim and Rab. Sorry guys, I'm sure that you will get revenge somewhere.

And now for the Real Event! The weather was a bit windy to say the least so the guys who could keep the ball about a foot of the ground would win this one.

You would have to look at the Links players for a victory. Correct, Ian Watson and his partner, George Ford, from Gullane, were the winners posting a score of 65. Well done lads.

At last we managed to track down Robert the Bruce and invited him along to our tournament. We blew the dust of his retiral gift and this was presented to him by our Chairman, Stewart Crawford, on behalf of the East Section members.

Robert accepted the gift and thanked the East members for their kindness. (You don't look

old enough for this retiral thing Robert).

It was nice to see our Scottish Chairman, John Geddes, making the long journey down from Aberdeen to play in our event. Thank you John.

Our Chairman thanked the Captain of Kingsknowe for having the East Section outing at this venue and Stevie Dixon, and his staff, for the excellent condition of the course. Stevie thanked the East Section for the presentation of a plaque and welcomed everyone back in the near future.

Other notable thank yous went to Gary Smith, from Scott's, for sponsoring the day and to all the raffle prizes that were mostly donated by the trade.

Our Section committee would like to thank all the members and guest who came along and supported the event.

All the Scores of the "Willie Woods Invitational"

1. Ian Watson & George Ford, both Gullane, 65; 2. Shaun Cunningham, Royal Musselburgh, & Colin McArthur, Broomieknowe, 66 (BIH); Jim Smith & Gary McCandles, both Rigby Taylor, 66.

All other scores: S. Crawford & S. Dixon, 68 (BIH); J. Geddes & B. Moir, 68; R. Murdoch & S. Ferguson, 69; T. Murray & D. Scott, 70; G. Smith & R. Bruce, 72; A. Caldwell & J. Caldwell, 77; R. Wilson & J. Davidson, 84.

Longest Drive. Gary McCandles; Nearest the Pin. George Ford; Nearest the Hole in Two. Jim Smith.

Tom Murray
07709960163



North

As I am writing this month's article it is absolutely chucking it

down outside. I have never seen such a huge amount of rainfall in such a small space of time. In fact, after speaking to another member, who measures the amount of rain we have, he said that we had 96mm in just over a day and a half. That's quite a lot in my book.

I was speaking to John Geddes, at McDonald Golf Club, and that is a course that doesn't take too kindly to a lot of rain. He was saying that his whole front nine was under water and in some places up to four feet deep. I have sent a picture of his 7th hole with a wee article.

This is in the news pages of the magazine.

There hasn't really been a lot else happening in the North Section over the past month. If there has then I haven't heard about it.

The Norrie Whytock Trophy was played on August 20 at Archie Dunn's Auchterarder Golf Club. The weather prior to the event had been terrible and the course was luckily opened at 1pm.

The North Section sent a team down packed with experience and stamina. John Geddes, Hugh McLatchie, James McCormack and George Mitchell travelled with great expectation. The team came a creditable 5th with 81 points.

The overall winners on the day were Ayrshire with 92 points. A big congratulations and well done to them.

A report will follow in next month's article for the Autumn outing to Alyth. All the winners and losers, and stories will be written. I hope everyone enjoyed it.

There is news of the AGM. This will be held at Cruden Bay Golf Club on Thursday, October 15. Cost of the day per person will be £10 and the tee times will run from 11am. Anyone interested in coming along to the day should get in touch with the secretary Dale Robertson on

07711274525.

I think that's it for this month. If I have forgotten anything I apologise and will remember to include it next month. Cheers

Ben Brookes

Murcar Links 07813889374



Ayrshire

The date you've all been waiting for! Yes this year's AGM will take place on Thursday, October 29 at Bogside 7.30 pm.

Ayrshire finally got its name on the Norrie Whittock Trophy, sponsored by Bayer, at the fourteenth time of asking! Auchterarder GC hosted the event which looked liable to succumb to the weather.

The course held up well though and all players got 18 holes in! Archie and his team had the course in great shape considering the recent poor weather. Thanks also to the catering staff for the excellent food and service.

Our team consisted of myself, Derek Wilson, Martin Lothian and Duncan Gray.

With the Belfast trip and Powfoot taking place in the next few weeks I will get the reports in the next issue.

That's it for now then any news to me at denis.t@hotmail.co.uk or 07939 104701

Denis Tweddell

Northern Region



North Wales

This month's column like the daylight hours at this time of year is I'm afraid, a bit short.

The autumn tournament and AGM took place on October 1 at Eaton Golf Club and a full write up on tournament results and AGM in next months column, I think we would all like to thank Eaton Golf Club for the warm welcome and use of the course and the facilities.

Next month we will hopefully be holding our autumn seminar, venue and dates yet to be confirmed so watch this space! In our local news section, we seem completely lacking in local news so come on help me out a bit by

giving me some of your news so I can fill this column up, like I said only a short column this month so.

ALL THE BEST UNTIL NEXT MONTH.

Pete Maybury Petemayb66@aol.com 07756001187

Johnny Evans

Johnny.evans@tesco.net



North West

The next fixture coming up is the autumn tournament at Mere G&CC.

This is on Tuesday, October 13. The entry fee is £25 payable to BIGGA North West Section for £25 to Bill Merritt. The Lodge, Beacon Park Golf Club, Beacon Lane, Dalton, Wigan, WN8 7RU. Billy can be contacted on mobile number 07985175825.

As always in the Section there is no news of any kind as nobody phones me or

e-mails me so there is nothing to write about. I sometimes get asked why there are no Section notes, so I assume that members do read them but I cannot understand why nobody wants to contribute. Some members are quick to pass comments about the Association but do nothing to move it on.

A two day Essential Management course has been arranged for November 4 and 5 at Birchwood Golf Club in Warrington. This course will be partly subsidised and I expect it to cost somewhere in the region of £150 for the two days including meals. Please apply to myself, Chris Sheehan, on 01512894625 or mobile no 07840706738 or e-mail jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk places will be on a first come basis.

Chris Sheehan



North East

As you read your September magazine you would find that Close House was given a feature and, of course, since it was visited by Scott McCallum a lot of work has since been done. For example some of the greens have been seeded and also more recently new staff have been

recruited. These are Roy White and Graham Lauder, both from Slayley Hall. We wish them well.

Whickham Golf Club is about to do a major alteration on its course very shortly. For those who have played Whickham's 18th hole you know that you can get some difficult lies if you don't get your drive away. Well, apparently they are hoping to make the fairway stepped, then replace the stream with a small lake or pond.

On behalf of the Section we would like to wish Jordan Gibson, of Northumberland Golf Club, the best of luck in playing in the National Championship at Burnham and Burrow later this month.

James Richardson



East Midlands

Not much news on the golf front here, you should have all received letters for the Autumn Tournament and AGM on October 15 at Matlock Golf Club. There is still time to get your entries in so come along. Any volunteers for next year's committee will also be gratefully accepted!

The Autumn Education day is now confirmed with the speakers including Paul Lowe, Greg Evans, Frank Newberry and Andy Cole, of the STRI. The day promises to be fun filled and informative with plenty of lively debate! It will be good to see as many of you as possible at Forest Hill Golf Club on November 19.

By the time of publishing both the Section trip to Wimbledon and the Headland Pairs' final at The Grove should have been completed – full report in next month's magazine.

As always if anybody has any interesting news or gossip please let me know at biggaeast-midlands@hotmail.com.

Regards

Andy de Wet



East of England

October already, once again where did the summer go? A pretty mixed bag this side of the

country with warm dry spells in June and August coupled with a pretty miserable July that have contrived to keep us on our toes at all times. Hopefully the weather will settle down now and allow us to get to Christmas fairly dry, then see what the new year brings.

Our last golf event was the annual Greenkeepers vs Trade match held this year at Abbot-sley Golf Club, home of our Chairman, Allan Walker.

The event was well supported by greenkeepers, however, there was a disappointing turn out from the trade for varying reasons.

Thanks from Gary Cooper go especially to Tony Kvedaras, from Independent Turfkare Solutions, who came all the way from his native North West for the fixture, enjoy the overnight stay and our Chairman's hospitality!

Thanks also to the guys from Pottergate Golf Club who made up the numbers for the trade team to make all six matches two verses one! Sportingly our Chairman refused to give any trade teams a head start and therefore a one sided fixture gave a one sided result with the greenkeepers winning 5 – 1.

Gary Cooper would like it known that for the second year running and even with an extra player that Allan Walker has not been able to take a point from him!

Praise for the condition of the course goes to Allan Walker and all his staff, despite their new pink workshirts - yes I did say pink! Thanks also to all at Abbotsley for making us feel so welcome.

Hopefully next year's event can be organised to allow a more even match to be played.

Our next golf day is our annual AGM which this year is being held at RAF Cottesmore Golf Club on Thursday, October 15. After the success of our visit there last year it will be good to play the course again and enjoy the hospitality in the Officers Mess.

The AGM will this year take place before the golf so arrive early and get involved. AGM and full golf day details will be sent out soon and remember ID to be allowed on to the base.

Many thanks
steveimingham@aol.com
www.eastofenglandbigga.com
Steve Beverly



Midland

Well that's it I've had enough, kite flying is now for me. It will take one hell of a long tippet to get my flies in the river using such a method! While we are on angling let me tell you a little story, all true and bear with me it is of relevance to us all.

I, and my brother (Ceri), were fishing a huge hole on the upper Severn, I gave him the better, very deep middle section, to fish and I took the fast flowing upper part. As usual my flies became snagged and while retackling heard a faint "ah". Looking up all I saw of Ceri was his panicked face off to Bristol with his waders evermore dragging him further under. Like Tarzan in I go, manage to grab his legs and push him out of the current to safety, but now I'm in the same predicament. However, I've read the H&S while fishing books. I simply turn on my back with legs down stream and ungracefully float to the shallows and watch, out of reach, both my smokes and wallet pass by. Ceri is a trained lifeguard and worked for 10 years as such. So who was to blame? Me. I did not tell him that the water was too deep past a point, did not advise wearing polarised glasses so he could see the danger, but most importantly did not tell him what to do in such an event.

The point I make is that while it is not enthralling reading it is of importance that we all read and understand the "operator's manual" of a machine and/or receive on the job training BEFORE we undertake any works. I am as guilty as the next, but of course I know everything! But does the person you send? You can't read when in difficulties.

Now what's this I hear, the newly-wed Colin Wood, of Sandwell Park, has left to, one can only assume, peruse a career in his passion for darts. Or was the little wife fed up of you working seven and a half days a week - under the thumb or what, Colin. Good luck to you in your new venture "Ice Man". Still waiting for my tobacco chap, let's call it a wedding gift mate.

Well come on now "It wasn't me" worst the luck (respectfully). Ed and his lovely wife Julie are expecting another little one. So that makes 4 point 2 as opposed to the normal 2 point 4. Can you not do anything normally, oh the Point 2 being the new Collie, at least that can't climb trees. In less than a decade you have travelled a very long way my friend, well done and congratulations to you both. I've got a couple of bricks and a billhook here chap, black eyed peas is not the word. Ed, cc or si si.

This month's calendar sponsor is our old friends Scotts, please contact Nia Frost on: 07884 066 655 or go to: www.scottspromotional.co.uk for your fertiliser etc needs. Scotts have also been the sponsor of the very successful Doubles Tournament for many years now, and we are reaching its conclusion for this year's event. Who will be the final champions? However, all are winners in this wonderful event, thanks to Scotts for their continued historically kind support of the section.

Last month I dropped a booby, Burton golf venue is on the 23/10/09 and not on the 16th as reported, my apologies.

Sean McDade.



B,B&O

October! What a month in our calendar. The summer is becoming a distant memory, the nights are pulling in and my Triumph bike is ready for a much deserved rest, the mornings are getting darker and colder with the evenings drawing us to a seasons close.

A warm welcome awaited the section members for the BBO Autumn Pairs Invitational which took place at Donnington Valley GC, The course was in excellent condition and on the day, full of surprises as Alistair gave us a brief insight to what it must be like to play on Augusta greens, certainly not for the faint hearted.

Thanks to Donnington Valley GC for the courtesy of the course and all the catering and management staff who provided

hospitality ensuring our every need was met, Alistair Higgs and Peter Smith and all the Donnington crew who gave us a day to remember.

Thanks to Ian Richardson from Headland Amenity for sponsoring this event.

The results 1. Dominic Lewis, Graham Down, Oakland Park; 2. Sid Arrowsmith, Peter Smith, Frilford Heath; 3. Phil Ryder, Keith May, Berkshire.

Steve Coone, James Moore 36pts won the Trade prize

A trip to Ransome's factory is on offer to all members, TH White are sponsoring a trip on November 25 to the impressive Ransomes manufacturing plant in Ipswich, this will include transport from TH White and a guided tour of these state of the art facilities with lunch and even a game of golf on the new 3 hole course.

Limited spaces are available, so get your name in the frame. All this for £5 per head.

Interested parties please contact Simon Marsh for details and times, Simon can be contacted on 07850 450 505 or email greenkeeper@harleyford.co.uk

The next event for your diary will be held at The Oxfordshire GC on Thursday, December 9 and will run with a Texas Scramble Shotgun Start with the Annual General Meeting after play.

Adam King the Section Secretary is always interested in feedback and new ideas and ways of promoting the Section members to join in on our events throughout the calendar year, please do come forward and make suggestions to Adam on what you think we can do to further improve the BBO Section. ajk@radley.org.net

The Section website is alive and has been kicking for some time, so if you have any news or views, give it a blast! www.bbo-greenkeepers.co.uk

Have a great Autumn
Mark Day
mark.day@tacitgolf.com

South East Region

South East Region Seminar Reigate Hill Golf Club, November 12

This year's Seminar is arranged and hosted by the Surrey Section - The Decade Ahead!

As we move out of the naughties what does the next decade hold for golf management and Greenkeepers?

With climate change an ever deepening recession and greater demands on Golf Course quality this years Seminar will include five excellent speakers from within the industry, covering a wide range of subjects to help us with the day to day challenges and long term improvements.

Speakers: Mark Hunt, Headland; Martin Ward, Symbio; Laurence, Pithie MG, TurfMasterOne; Tim Lobb, Thomson Perritt & Lobb, Lee Penrose, STRI Ecologist and Tracey Madison, from BIGGA HQ. Cost to members is £15

For more information please contact Clive Osgood South East Regional Administrator 01737 819343

cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk



Surrey

Friday, September 5. Only another three weeks and I, and her indoors will be on holiday cruising the Baltic. Of course, when you read this, we will have just returned and that shows you just how difficult it is for me to write this one month ahead, when in effect, that month has already gone. Or has it? Where's Albert Einstein and his Theory of Relativity when you need him? And does it apply to travelling at only 25 knots, somewhat slower than the speed of light? I am now going to lie down quietly in a dark room and pretend that life is but a dream and that sanity will eventually be restored.

Monday, August 24. The annual competition for the much coveted McMillan Tankard, at Sunningdale. The weather was warm with sunny spells and playing from the white tees was a challenge that Paul Weston and myself accepted with much enthusiasm. Andy Gatland made up the threeball and struck his drives with great authority far beyond the heather. Paul and I, with less authority, went into the heather with agonising consistency. Members who played well were Ron Christie, with a magnificent longest drive, Phil (Angel) Rowlands got Near-

est the Pin - I know, I couldn't believe it either, and with 35 pts on countback, the winner of the aforementioned cup was Ryan Angear. Gary Holland, 35 pts, was runner-up, and the other Effingham GC bandito, who came third was Cameron Porter. That great Scottish golfer, Gareth Roberts, had the best gross score and will, if you are not careful, relive for you at our next event... every shot.

The next event is at Wimbledon Park GC, which confusingly has not taken place yet, but will have by the time you read this. Back to the dark room.

Daddies of the month are Jon Day and Daniel Pelling. On August 3 Daniel's partner Adrienne and I'm sure with much relief and great joy gave birth to Jonathan James, 9 lbs 15 oz. Jon's wife Abby, on August 11 had a second baby girl, Isla, 8 lbs 13 oz. Congratulations to both families.

As you may all be aware, Bob Wiles, RAC GC, officially retires in February 2010, after 33 years. Bob, a man to whom the years have been kind, and who still has a little twinkle, sorry that should read a little twinkle in his eye, is looking forward to relaxing in the Chichester area by the sea. He is intent on playing much golf in the Goodwood area and Bill Payne, Course Manager at Goodwood GC will be reducing the speed of their golf carts after Bob and his grandson overturned one on the course a few weeks ago. Bob assured me that he was not driving and that his grandson was not over the limit. Bob's successor, Eric Olsen, The Belfry GC, starts in October 2009 and we wish him every success in his new position.

Tony Worsfold, Workshop Manager at the RAC GC, also retires soon, but will continue to maintain the RAC's collection of veteran and older RAC rescue vehicles which are stored at Woodcote Park and occasionally displayed at the RAC's London office in Pall Mall. Good luck to you both and may you enjoy a long and exciting retirement.

Ted Holland, after 26 years at Gatton Manor GC, will retire on October 23. Again good luck, Ted and all donations should be sent c/o The Angel public house.

Les Coombes is not retiring yet, but is practising for when he does by taking up the noble

art of fly-fishing. After only one lesson Les has caught his first rainbow trout, 8 lbs 6 ozs at a river in Avington in Hampshire, but you should have seen the one that got away! I asked Les if he ties his own flies, but he said "no, he still prefers a zip".

That's all folks, until next month.

Brian Willmott



East Anglia

They didn't tell me that the tide came in! According to our geographic experts at BIGGA HQ we are now just south of Edinburgh. No wonder my notes keep getting lost (see August Magazine).

The tide must have gone out again because we played at Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club in August and it was lovely. It was quite a day as they had had no rain for weeks until we turned up. I seem to recall that happening at Felixstowe on more than one occasion. So much for 'the sun shines on the righteous'.

I digress. 60 plus turned up to play on a lovely course, well presented by Glen Rayfield and his crew. Good to see Glen at the helm.

The trophy hunters were in action again; they were as follows:-

0 - 9 Handicap: 1st. Mike Varley 41 Points; 2nd Michael Buck 39 Points; 3rd Nick Brewster 37 Points

10 - 18 Handicap: 1st Glen Rayfield 42 Points; 2nd Acer Barber 40 Points; 3rd Paul Gould 39 Points

19 - 28 Handicap: 1st Roy Britton 34 Points; 2nd Adrian Goode 33 Points; 3rd Pat Swinn 33 Points

Guest: 1st Frank Grifins 41 Points; 2nd K Eldred 40 Points

Trade: 1st Nick Ashman 42 Points; 2nd Edward Clarkson Captain & Greenkeeper Shield; 1st Michael Buck & T Mills 77 Points. 2nd Alan Carter & K Eldred 74 Points

Longest drive - Joe Simpson on the 10th and Steve Dickinson on the 17th.

Nearest the pin - Asa Barber on the 5th and Roy Britton on the 12th.

The Loo Seat was presented

to a fourball, none of whom reached a ditch 40 yards in front of a tee. Unfortunately, I didn't get their names, so if the four, obviously scratch golfers, could let me know who they are, all will be revealed in the next bulletin (I think not).

All the prizes were presented by Doug Pipe, Felixstowe Captain. Thank you Felixstowe for a super day out.

The main sponsors for the day were Toro Lely UK. The equally important were as follows:- 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.

Mick Lathrope



Kent

Afternoon everyone and greetings from Leaf City!

Now that summer is well and truly behind us and the sun tan starts to fade we can, at least, console ourselves with the fact that our courses don't look like the proverbial cornflake any more! Here at Birchwood, shades of green slowly turned to a pale yellow colour and a granite like, dusty surface for much of the summer enabling the highest handicap golfers to achieve a somewhat flattering score or two.

Now the daylight hours have shifted and you've remembered that broken headlight on the greens mower you promised yourself you'd fix in the summer has resulted in extended putting surfaces and the cold mornings lowering some to raid their wives underwear drawer for additional warmth (you know who you are!).

The football season is in full flow again and my spare time is occupied totally by running my three kids to their matches all over the south east putting my ever-elusive low-teens golf handicap out of reach for yet another year. I wouldn't have it any other way though. You can't beat seeing the honest passion kids put into their football week in week out. It's so refreshing

after watching some of the over-paid prima donnas prancing around in the higher echelons of the football league.

I hope you enjoyed playing Redlibbets Golf Club at the end of September and I shall provide a full report next month. I did ask Kev what he thinks I would need to shoot to ensure victory there. He told me "All the other golfers". Thanks.

Saltex has been and gone now too ensuring our mess rooms are full of brochures and posters advertising equipment our staff would have us buy.

Yep, winter draws towards us with the annual thrill of seasonal shopping (can't bring myself to use the 'C' word) just around the corner. But on the upside, however, it does mean the return of our annual shindig/Turkey Trot at Birchwood on November 26. I know that's a few weeks off yet but please make a note in your diaries for what, in my opinion, is the highlight of the year.

Please call me if you have any news for this column, especially if you can relate any embarrassing tales about colleagues (see the bit about wearing women's tights above) or personal achievements.

Take care and remember, don't drink and drive. Don't even putt.

Best of British
Rob Holland
07843 410755



Sussex

August 6 was the date of the Sussex Section's Summer Meeting and Team Shield and what a wonderful day it was. East Brighton was the venue and it is difficult to find a Club more welcoming than they were on that day. Andy had the course in superb condition and the weather held to almost the end of the day.

The day was sponsored by Mitchell Ground Care Services and Darren Mitchell was there to dazzle us with his brilliant golf and more importantly to present the prizes.

On the day the local team of Andy Painter, Martin and Sam showed just how important local knowledge is when they carded

a tremendous score to win the main prizes.

Now, the Sussex Section has always prided itself in making teams and players from other Sections very welcome and so we were pleased to welcome three teams from Surrey to our Team Shield. Surrey Renegades II consisted of Gary Ogilvie, with Course Managers from West Hill and Guildford, and they took second place (on countback) with 87 points. In third, with 86 points, were Surrey Renegades III, all from Tandridge Golf Club.

What happened to Surrey Renegades I? You may well ask. For this was the team led by Brian (Tacit) Willmott who regularly enters Surrey team events. Mark Harvey (Epsom) struggling with illness having just returned from Mexico played brilliantly to card 50 points, almost enough to win it on his own. He was however inconsolable at not getting in the prizes feeling that his team mates performance could have been better. Anthony was no better than average (unusual for him) while Brian had great difficulty in getting off the tee. He found the 9th Green from the 10th Tee, nearly demolished the halfway house (the catering lady hopes to back to work soon) and the winner of the 3.50 on the nearby Brighton Racecourse only won because of where Brian's drive on the 15th finished. Surrey and Brian, you are great fun and are welcome to all Sussex events. On reflection that was a stupid thing to write as Brian pens the Surrey reports!

Carlton Allen Davis won the Longest Drive prize with a huge drive, with Nearest the Pin being won with a great shot from 'Sex-Bomb' Searles. This wonderful day was rounded off with a superb meal in the evening

There is a Sussex/Kent/Surrey triangular match on October 14 and anyone wishing to play please contact Secretary Dave Allen and for your information the Sussex Turkey Trot which is always a great day will be held at Worthing Golf Club on Friday, November 27.

Derek Farrington

South West and South Wales Region

BIGGA South West and South Wales Regional Seminar 2009

This year's annual Seminar is being presented in association with Farmura and Aquatrols and will be held once again at Cannington Centre for Land Based Studies on November 19. The theme for the seminar this year is "Modern Solutions For The Game".

The morning presentations include two speakers over from America. Dr Stan Kosta, Director of Technology for Aquatrols Corporation, who will give a presentation on Surfactants and Soil Management and John Kaminski, Assistant Professor of Turfgrass Science at Pennsylvania State University, who will talk about Fairy Ring Control. These speakers will also be joined in the morning session by Dr Ruth Mann, Plant Pathologist for STRI, who will be speaking on Diseases On The Increase. The afternoon session commences with Peter McVicar, Course Manager at Hesketh Heath Golf Club, speaking on Sustainability followed by Tom Malehorn, from Aquatrols, who is a graduate from Pennsylvania State University and will give a presentation on Surface Moisture Management and Playing Control.

Entry for BIGGA members is £20 with non members £30. A reduced rate of £20 for a non member is offered if accompanied by a BIGGA member. Places for the day are limited and booking details and information will be sent to all Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers in the region. Anyone requiring further information or a booking form please contact Jane Jones BIGGA Regional Administrator on 01454 270850 or mobile 07841148110.



South West

Early August, on one of the few dry days, saw the Section team travel "across the Bridge"

to take on the South Wales Section at Marriot St Pierre. I say crossed the Bridge – most of us sensibly crossed the bridge, but Robin Greaves in the "yellow peril" drove around the long way via Gloucester. "It costs fifteen lousy quid to cross in a pickup" Robin was heard to moan while tucking into his second Magners on the verandah (and doing his best to wind up our hosts!).

Never mind – it was a great day. Thanks to Marriot St. Pierre, and all the team there for such a terrific experience. The Old Course, which as most of us know has been hard enough over the years, has had a significant facelift over the course of the last year. Most of the bunkers have been rebuilt, four greens have been replaced, and several tees repositioned – notably the 7th tee, which has been moved back into woodlands down on the lower level, now making the former par-4 hole into a 540 yard par-5. Also the 16th hole, which goodness knows was difficult enough before, has been made into a much more severe dogleg by moving the tee to the right and a new green with a nasty sneaky drop-off at the back. Excellent improvements throughout, and fullest congratulations to all those involved. Money well spent without question. The South Wales team finally got revenge for the last couple of defeats with a narrow 3 1\2 – 2 1\2 win. Well played Wales – but watch out - We'll Be Back.

The Autumn Meeting and AGM at Saltford Golf Club is now very close. Please respond to the email applications which have gone out. If you haven't received one for any reason – please contact me on paulw@mgcnew.co.uk as soon as possible. Darren Moxham and his team are champing at the bit to welcome us, and the word is that Saltford is in really good condition with all the stops pulled out.

As for the AGM – this is your chance to make a difference. Come along and tell us what you'd like to see in the way of Education, Training, and Golf. Yes Golf. We shouldn't be embarrassed by playing golf. This is our trade. If we don't understand golf – if we don't understand the requirements of golf – if we don't understand the mindset of the golfing member – we don't stand the best chance of doing our

jobs properly. At a career level – getting involved with a BIGGA Committee is the best opportunity for developing yourself. Stand for the Committee. I did – at the age of 25 and a Deputy Head Greenkeeper in 1982. Best thing I ever did. I don't think I'd be where I am today if I hadn't. Yes, BIGGA has taken up a lot of my time. No I haven't been paid – no I don't want any payment. It doesn't work like that. Volunteering speaks volumes – don't underestimate it. You develop a network. You develop relationships and a reputation. When that job comes along that you really really want – you've got the best chance of securing it. You're not going to manage that if your name is not known or your commitment unproven – and someone else's is. Simple.

Nuff said. This is getting close to my last report. I'll probably squeeze one more in, which might well be a look back over five years of ramblings. So please send me any news from your area or club and you may be spared.

May I just close by thanking our Patronage Partners for their support. The names are on the Fixture Card. The links will soon be appearing on the website. These companies support us. Please help by supporting them.

Paul Worster.

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South Wales

Hope you are all well and not suffering from Trench Foot after that 'glorious' summer that we just had!

Seriously, in September's Around The Green (which I wrote in August) I commented on the rain, then went to Tenerife for two weeks, came back and the weather was still exactly the same! What happened to the 'BBQ Summer'? And what happened to those 'experts' who advised us that, due to global warming, we were to paint our houses white to reflect the sun and to plant shrubs to provide shade? Are these the same people who during the 80s advised us that in the event of a

nuclear war we were to paint our houses white to reflect the blast? Do these people have shares with Dulux or something? Anyway, rant over, back to the Section!

The annual match against The South West was played at St Pierre recently. Players found the Mathen course in excellent condition, thanks to the efforts of Course Manager, Stuart Wood, and his staff. After a hard fought contest, the South Wales team finally came out on top, with the final score 3 1/2 to 2 1/2. Longest Drive was won by Jordan, from Taunton & Pickeridge, and Nearest The Pin was won by Stuart Ross, from Brecon GC. Thanks go out to South West team's captain Wayne 'The Special One' Vincent for organising his team; to Steve Chappell for organising the South Wales team and for looking after the cup; to T H White for sponsoring the South West team's shirts and James Rees, of Inscapes, for sponsoring the South Wales teams shirts. Also a big thanks to Simon Keeble and Nick Martin from The Scotts Company for providing the prizes. And finally thanks to Stuart Wood and everyone at St Pierre for the course, the great food and hospitality.

At the time of writing, the draw for the Semi Finals for The Rigby Taylor Matchplay Competition (The Road To Tenby) was as follows: Paul Handy & Rhys Norville v Gary Humphries & Rhys Norville; Mark Wilshire & Mark Anderton v Andy Roach & Gareth Knight or Darryl Bray & Leigh Davies.

The final will be played at Tenby GC and both teams will be giving Dave Carvey's RT company credit card a good hammering in Tenby town after the match. If I give you a good

write up than can I come along too Dave? Roy? Peter? Oh well! It was worth a try!

Don't forget the Autumn competition which this year is at Southerndown GC on Wednesday, October 14. The Section's AGM will also take place here so if you have any suggestions/issues regarding the Section then please feel free to come along to air your views. The golf will start at 1.30pm. Invites will be sent out in due course. The Autumn event will once again be sponsored by Keith Morgan Mowers. Thanks in advance to Jon and Ben Morgan for their continued support.

Good luck to our Greenkeeping team when they play The Secretaries in their annual match, which this year is to be held at Neath GC on Thursday, September 10. A report in next month's Around The Green.

Finally, If Adrain Panks (your friendly SISIS Rep) tells you that he will be on his inflatable this weekend, don't put your hands to your ears and shout 'too much information Ade!' He is merely stating that he has a new fangled inflatable kayak and can often be seen paddling on the river Taff on weekends. He has kindly given me his old kayak (The Pink Pig) and has suggested following the river Taff from its source in the Brecon Beacons right down to Cardiff. I dont know mate! I'm sure that when we paddle through Merthyr I'll be able to hear someone playing the theme tune from the film Deliverance on the banjo. I'll let you know!

Any information or announcements that you would like added to this column will be gratefully received.

Ceri Richards
07831 168645



John Pemberton
Chief Executive

By the time you read this we will have no doubt have tackled the challenges of the golf course at Burnham & Berrow for our annual National Championship. I wish Richard Whyman and his team every success and I look forward to seeing the course.

Finding sponsorship for this has been difficult but we have managed to secure two main sponsors who are Kubota and Charterhouse and I am grateful for their help which enables the cost to be kept down to the competitors.

As the days grow shorter Harrogate Week seems to be almost upon us even though it's still just over three months away. I think it is often overlooked or taken for granted that this event, arguably the largest indoor turf exhibition and education opportunity in Europe, is organised completely in-house by the 18 BIGGA staff. I say 18 however four of those are based in regional offices and of the remaining 14 only two are dedicated full time to Harrogate, Sue, who sells the stand space, and Pauline, who looks after the operational side.

This is BIGGA's single largest activity and certainly its largest source of income. How do we achieve success year upon year you might ask? We do it thanks to the dedication of all 18 staff who juggle planning and development meetings and physical input into the production of the event while balancing their own every-day key roles in the Association. Like every other business there have had to be cut backs and the loss of three posts earlier in the year has had an impact. As we all know the work does not go away, it just gets shared out between fewer people.

Where am I going with this? The exhibitors are backing Harrogate at the moment and sales are doing well, it could be better but the economic climate is not in our favour.

It's time to close ranks and members need to support the Association that supports them and to support the companies that support it not only at Harrogate but also during the year. Take time to have a look at www.harrogateweek.org.uk for the latest information on both the education and the exhibition, but most important of all start making your plans to attend. I am being quizzed by some key exhibitors about how I see attendance levels for 2010, my crystal ball is a bit cloudy but if Harrogate is not well attended then you can be sure that it will be more difficult to sell for January 2011. When the job market is quiet what better time to improve your career prospects? Take advantage of the enclosed 'Continue to Learn' brochure, this does not include the 'Fringe Seminar' programme that is being added to right up to Harrogate, details of which will be in the November magazine. Information can be found at any time on the Harrogate Week web site or by contacting the office.

Finally, congratulations to Rhys Norville for winning the Student of the Year competition that continues to be sponsored by Toro and thanks also to the team at Lely, a part of the equation that is sometimes overlooked.

Remember that this is your association and by pulling together we can influence the future.

John Pemberton
Chief Executive

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