

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
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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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