

getting full already with a second list of entries for other section members. Remember this is also the National qualifier. The first and second place winners will get their expenses paid trip to the National Championship at The Berkshire. After all the debate don't miss your chance to have a closer look!

Here is a reminder of fixtures coming up in the section-
2010 Fixtures

The spring tournament, May 20 at Ealing Golf Club

The Summer Tournament will be held on July 21 at Muswell Hill Golf Club. We will have a BBQ after the golf with golf dress welcome all day, so no need for your shirt and tie. Also the club's Brewery is going to be supplying a bar on the course, plus Sherriff Amenity will also be there with another halfway hut!

The Turkey Trot will be held at Wyke Green Golf Club on December 2. This will be another great day in the calendar.

Please if you have any questions or suggestions on the section please contact us.

You can call or use the web site www.biggalondonsection.co.uk.

South West and South Wales



South Wales

As I write this column, it is still bitterly cold and I am sure that most of us turf professionals are still wondering when spring is going to come along and thaw our greens out! Mind you, by May you will be so busy that you may meet yourself coming back and your summer strimmer boys have, with no warning at all, gone to Glastonbury for a long weekend!

I am also typing this and sending it up to HQ quickly before March's edition of GI comes out, as I did poke fun at a few people last month and want to get April's column to print before I get advised to 'tone it down a bit'. On reflection, it did seem a little harsh to infer that Gerald Orme looked like a gnome as he doesn't have a beard, or to my knowledge, any interest in

angling. Sorry Gerald!

Anyway, back to the Section. Here's what events are taking place in April:

April 14 - Evening lecture visit to Celtic Manor 2010 Course. Tour of facilities with Jim McKenzie before return to maintenance compound for a comparison between the upcoming Ryder Cup and the last Ryder Cup at Valhalla. Jim will be joined by Chris Sealey & Mike Nash who worked on the support team during the Valhalla Ryder Cup. Meeting at 5:30 to 8:30. Event as always sponsored by Countrywide Turf & Amenity. Our thanks to Martin and Peter for their continued support.

April 22 - 'When the Circus Comes to Town' South Wales Spring Seminar at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club. This year's topic is preparation and recovery from tournament golf and we have lined up four top course managers to give us a 12 month calendar covering all aspects of preparing for, hosting and then recovering from a tournament. The speakers are Gordon Moir, St. Andrews Links Trust; Huw Morgan MG, Ashburnham GC; Ian Kinley, Royal Porthcawl GC, and Jim McKenzie, Celtic Manor Resort. They will be joined by Richard Windows, from the STRI, who will be discussing the Open Championship and the STRI & R&A's input from an agronomic point of view. The tournaments featured will be The Open, Ryder Cup, European Seniors Open & Home Internationals. This year's event is sponsored by Farmura Environmental so our thanks go to Jonathan Harmer, Gerald Orme, David Binks & Peter Lacey for their continued support of our Section. The day starts at 9:30 and will finish at 3:30 and the cost is £20 per ticket limited to 50 places.

A personal thanks go out to everyone (about 40) who attended the recent Avoncrop Amenity Seminar at Ashburnham GC. Feedback I've received so far has been very good so I am glad that people enjoyed it. So a big thank you to Huw Morgan MG and everyone from Ashburnham and to all the speakers.

Thanks go out from the section as well to Martin Townsend and Peter Holstrom, from Countrywide Turf And Amenity, for their sponsorship of the evening lectures again this year. I have learned my lesson about pre-



John Pemberton
Chief Executive

The problem of exhibitions has raised its head again, this time thanks especially to the efforts of Pitchcare. As you may have read on my recent posting on the Open Forum section of the BIGGA Bulletin Board, Pitchcare's Managing Director, Dave Saltman, is brokering a move by the trade who demand a unification of BTME and SALTEX, with the new show taking place at a new venue, the one suggestion being the National Exhibition Centre (NEC), Birmingham.

Just who is represented in this broad use of the term 'Trade' we have yet to discover, but it is a matter of fact that a number of current exhibitors at either BTME or SALTEX have become unsettled and now seek change. This where the dilemma starts with no real consensus as to what suits the majority of exhibitors. The options floated are endless: an annual show; a biennial show; indoor; part indoor, part outdoor; at the NEC, elsewhere in the UK, retain BTME and SALTEX, before Christmas, after Christmas, to be run by BIGGA and/or the IOG, run by the 'Trade'.

But what of the visitors, what are they looking for and what will they support? Clearly the IOG and BIGGA have some serious thinking to do and perhaps we will need to do some in depth market research of our own.

I am pleased to confirm that Kubota (UK) Limited and Charterhouse Turf Machinery Limited will be the principal sponsors for the National Championship for the second year running. Their financial support in these difficult times ensures the viability of this popular event that this year will be held at the Berkshire Golf Club at the beginning of October.

I am working with the Board to produce a formal document on the Governance of the Association and this will be available shortly. The initial draft will be published in the Members' area of the BIGGA website and it will be built upon over the coming months. There will also be published full details of the Board and the Sub Committees and I hope that this will facilitate improved communications and a better understanding of how the Association works.

As the first three months of this year slip by, somewhat quickly it seems to me, then our attention in the golfing calendar turns to Augusta and The Masters. No doubt greenkeepers everywhere can expect the usual complaints as golfers compare the condition of their course with that of Augusta. You have my sympathy. Let's hope that we have a good Spring and Summer and then we may see some optimism emerging for the future welfare of golf clubs and the game.

Finally, keep an eye on the BIGGA website, the redesigned version is shortly to be released and will have many new features including enhanced security and the facility to make on line payments, including membership renewal.

John Pemberton
Chief Executive