

## Section Notes

Please email your notes to [scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk) by the 5th of the month

All the latest news from your Section

# Around The Green



## Scottish Region



### North

As I write the clocks have just gone back and the daylight hours are seemingly disappearing. The Winter Leagues are starting and these are the most important competitions that some of your clubs golfers play in. It seems there are more that turn out for the Winter Fours than they do for the Summer Medals. They are religious, but they still want the course presented the best it can. It's never ending!

We held the AGM at Oldmeldrum Golf Club on October 21. It was a pay as you play day and a Stableford was agreed to keep it all fair. There weren't too many people turn up but still enough to hold an AGM and for there to be a few pounds passing between the golfers for who scored the most points on the day. The 200 Club final draw of the year was drawn and the following were the lucky winners - £100 John Geddes (FIX); £30 S. McCain, K. Strachan and N. Banner.

Thanks go to Bob O'Donnell and his staff for preparing the course as I understand that it didn't stay very dry and the last thing you probably needed in October was us lot turning up, so on behalf of the Section Bob. Thanks very much.

There is really a lot of news this month so really all I've got to say is to wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year whatever you get up to, enjoy it. There are the Work's Nights out so again enjoy them. That is if you have one!

Happy greenkeeping  
Ben Brookes  
Murcar Links  
07813889374



### Central

The Section finally got its Autumn outing played on October 13 at the third attempt at a bright and breezy Downfield which was playing a massive 7,580 yards (or at least the scores suggest that). Seriously though Paul Murphy and his team had it looking great following all the rain we have had in this area over the past few months and our thanks go to them and the club for hosting us, along with the patrons for supporting the Section.

Unfortunately, due to the rescheduling we didn't have a full field but we did come close to it. Winners included the aforementioned Paul Murphy who had the best scratch and Gordon McKie, who had the best nett. Best in the 1st class was Kenny Mitchell, of St Andrews, while Derek Scott, of Scoonie, won the 2nd class. Douglas Baird, of Caird Park, won the trophy for best spring and autumn combined. A full list of prize winners is on the website [www.biggacentralsection.org.uk](http://www.biggacentralsection.org.uk)

Following the golf we held the Section AGM where Derek Robson, of the Dukes, took over as Chairman from Gordon McKie. Bob Meikle, of Crail, is the new Vice Chairman and Gordon Moir has replaced Andy Mellon as Secretary/Treasurer. The members present thanked both Andy and Gordon McKie for what they have done for the Section over the past few years. Shaun Anderson, of Piperdam, was elected onto the committee and Stevie Wilson, of the Dukes, and Ganesh Chand, of St Andrews, were the recipients of the Patrons' Award.

Finally, on a personal note, I would like to take the opportu-

nity to thank John Pemberton for all he has done for BIGGA in his 17 years working for the Association and how sorry I am to hear he is stepping down as CEO. John, all the best for the future.



### West

Only a few weeks away from Christmas and the New Year, all very hard to take in considering the problems at the start of the season, it's difficult to appreciate the golfing season has gone by so quickly. I'm sure all your courses are recovering from the renovation works carried out weeks ago and are hoping for some respite from the overhead water supply which at times seems never ending, but then again we may experience a similar winter to last year, let's hope not quite so long a period of frost though.

Well, what's happened since the last article, sorry for missing the November issue guys, but I was on holiday at submission date.

Results of the Autumn Outing at Helensburgh, which was in great condition although the weather got a bit unpleasant for a spell, but cleared up to be a great day, are as follows:

Third Class. David Reid, Lenzie GC, 28 pts; 2. Ryan Brennan, Glasgow GC, 26 pts; 3. Colin Kierney, Drumpellier GC, 24 pts. Second Class. 1. Christian Carvel, East Renfrewshire GC, 39 pts; Blair Sommerville, Helensburgh GC, 37 pts; 3. Gavin Jarvis, Helensburgh GC, 34 pts. First Class. 1. D. Mackintosh, Cathkin Braes GC, 36 pts; 2. Andy Peace, Helensburgh GC, 33 pts BIH; 3. Calum Morrow, Drumpellier GC, 33 pts. Trade

prize. Gordon Howatt. Visitors' prize. Stuart Graham, Captain of Helensburgh GC. Apprentice prize. Chris Boyd, Helensburgh GC. Longest Drive. Gerry Bruen, Williamwood GC. Nearest the Pin prizes were won by Christain Carvel and Colin Kierney. The Daval Trophy winner was Christain Carvel, with 76 pts, and, last but not least, the Scratch Prize was won by Stuart Taylor, Glasgow GC, 69. Gavin Jarvis and his crew have to be congratulated on the condition of the course and for all their hard work in preparing the course in such a neat and tidy manner. Thanks to the Captain and Committee for allowing us the courtesy of the course and thanks to the catering and bar staff for dealing with our needs so well.

The annual match against the Club Masters was held once again at Helensburgh on October 18 and the match finished with a victory to the greenkeepers, as usual, 3 games to 2. Thanks to all who played and especially Gavin for organising the Greenkeepers team. Well done.

The Annual General meeting, held at Hags Castle GC, on October 28 was well attended and the Section recruited some new blood on committee for a change with Gerry Bruen and Michael MacIntyre both coming on. The new Section Chairman is John Brown, from Bearsden GC, and the Vice Chairman is David McBride, from Vale of Leven GC. We wish them well in their term of office and hope all runs smoothly.

The AGM was followed by a demonstration of the new range of Toro Equipment, all of which looked excellent and this was accompanied by lunch after and a game of golf, making the day a great success and very enjoyable. Thanks to Hamilton's Brothers for the sponsorship of the day and for the display of equipment. Thanks to Hags Castle Golf Club for hosting

the event and catering for every body's needs.

The Annual dinner has been decided and the venue is the Studio/Victoria's on December 3 so I won't be able to report until the next meeting.

On a final note I will have become Chairman of the Scottish Region in early November and am delighted to be selected for this prestigious roll and will endeavour to carry out my duties to the best of my abilities, thank you all for allowing me this honour and best wishes for Christmas and New Year.

Stuart Taylor  
Glasgow Golf Club



### East

Well the weather has turned for the worst, and golf courses are looking a bit wet to say the least.

Winter work has started on most courses, drainage and aeration I think is on most agendas for us.

On November 2 we held our Section's 24th AGM at Kingsfield Golf Centre.

Prior to the AGM, 27 delegates were treated to an intense demonstration by Jim Davidson, from Henderson's Grass Machinery, regarding the new Kubota range. I'm sure after this display Jim's mobile phone will be red hot with enquiries.

Not the best number of attendees that we have had, but as they say the show must go on. Our Chairman opened the meeting by asking all to be upstanding for one minute's silence in respect of the passing of Mark Pagan, Head Greenkeeper of Eyemouth GC, and Norman Wood, Head Greenkeeper of Haddington GC.

Our Chairman thanked the committee for the support that was given to him throughout the year, and to all members who gave the time to support our Section events. Hopefully we will see more members in the near future at the East Section fixtures.

He then gave a brief run down of all that he attended throughout the year. Our Secretary/Treasurer gave a very good presentation of our standing accounts and figures and was passed favourably by the members.

The Education Convener gave the members a reminder of the Section events throughout the year within our Section and also the coming events for 2010-2011 season.

Our new look Committee reads like this: Chairman, Stewart Crawford; Vice Chairman, Vacant; Secretary/Treasurer, Stuart Ferguson; Education, Tom Murray. Committee, James Neilson,

Scott Corrigan and George Oliver

Peter Boyd, our Regional Administrator reported on future events inclusive of the BTME Show, Scottish Conference and golfing fixtures for the coming year.

Our Chairman talked of the way forward of the Section and closed the meeting at 11.20 am.

A quick lunch was had, thanks to the superb catering from the Arkley family. Soup was great!

Robert. I did make enquires as to who made the soup and we did manage to drag Robert away long enough from his laptop for him to be presented with a presentation plaque from the East Section Chairman.

The two Patrons' Award winners were in attendance for to pick up their awards for Harrogate. And, last but not least, Eileen Barry was presented with flowers and gift vouchers as a token of the Section's appreciation for all of her hard work and efforts within the greenkeeping training over the years.

All that was left to do was play golf for the coveted Jimmy Neilson Trophy. As I was the winner of the Trophy last year I thought I better go out and defend the title. The clouds were gathering and the winds were picking up I could see in the distance the figures waiting for me at the 1st tee.

Robert kindly let me change into my golf attire in the Ladies' changing area as there was no place else available. I gingerly crept up to the 1st tee and the heavens opened we lasted six holes and were soaked through. But there were the three players that lasted the 9 holes out of all the players and it came down to the final hole. As the story went Jim Smith, Rigby Taylor, apparently had it in the bag ..... but our runner-up from last year was in no mood to give up and judging by the worn out score cards Stuart came home the worthy winner only by a better inward half. Well done, Stuart and better luck next time Jim.

Jimmy was still waiting in the Kingsfield clubhouse to present Stuart with the Trophy.

A final thanks to the sponsors Hendersons Grass Machinery and the owner of Kingsfield Golf Centre, Robert Arkley, and his staff for the very friendly welcome.

Have a great Christmas and a good new year.

Tom Murray : 07709960163  
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## Northern



### North East

With little or no golf news forthcoming this month all the talk has been of the Newcastle vs Sunderland football derby, with a Nolan hat trick for the black and whites coupled with a brace for Ameobi completing the rout, it turned into a Halloween horror show for the Mackems, even the red and whites second top scorer [OG] couldn't come to the rescue this time. Fair play to the Mackem fans though even they thought it was the most entertaining and attractive derby game for years. Keep the news coming folks hopefully some golf news next time around.

As I have commented on lack of support in recent months for our golf competitions I thought I would just have a check on who we have been missing lately. The last time we had a decent turnout was at Stocksfield in 2006 where 22 people turned up to play with the host club providing three players. Unfortunately that was the last time we have seen them due to, Barry Wilson, since retired; Tony Wilson, moved away, and Roy White, who moved to Close House and is no longer a member. But they are not the only ones. We have others who used to attend on a regular basis with the likes of Newcastle Utd GC, Tynemouth, Beamish Park Hotel and others. I think since 2009 numbers have dropped really badly and yes it will be probably due to work commitments and gone are the days that golf clubs are happy to let more than one staff away for the day.

Jimmy Richardson



### Northern

Hello everyone hope you are all well and ready for your work's festive outing. We have nearly reached the end of another golf season, and I would like to thank everyone for their support over the last year. Now the weather has taken a turn towards winter, we can get on with our winter greenkeeping projects, not forgetting the few leaves to move off the course. Hope to get a flyer out in the next few weeks with next year's golf fixtures, plus a date for a spring seminar.

Sorry there is no news or gossip this month which just leaves me to wish all our members and their families a happy Christmas and a happy New Year.

As usual any news or gossip please contact me, at 72 West Park Grove, Roundhay, LS8 2DY. Mob 07947401278, email, frankstewart3@hotmail.co.uk

Frank Stewart



### North Wales

The season of goodwill and peace to all men beckons us in; the shortest day is only a few weeks away and also is the VAT rise so make sure your orders are in before the price hike in January! After listening in some detail to the recent public spending review I can't help wondering if it will affect our finances at our clubs, I know some of the visiting parties at my golf club are based within the public sector, does that mean we lose those parties and the funds that come with them? I hope not.

The Christmas tournament and AGM took place at Mile End Golf Club on December 1 but due to the date I have to put the column in for printing I'm not be able to give a review of the day or results until next month. We hope to run a coach to Harrogate again in January probably on the Wednesday of BTME week, the coach will only run if we get enough "bums on seats" so if you or anyone connected with greenkeeping or clubhouse are

# Around The Green

interested in taking up a seat please contact Jeremy Hughes or Carl Crocher as soon as possible and with seats on this trip free to members and only a nominal fee to non-members it's a real bargain in these hard times!

In local news I have recently found out that Colin Jones of Mold golf club and in Colin's words "his other half" are expecting their fourth child in April. Best of luck from us all on the forthcoming event.

I think that's about it for this month and this year, so season's greetings to you all I hope to hear more from you next year.

Pete Maybury  
petemayb66@aol.com  
telephone 07756001187



## North West

Now December is with us, we look back on all that has happened in the past 12 months.

On a golfing front, the competitions were as follows:

The summer tournament was held at Blackpool North Shore Golf Club, the competition was won by Brian Turner. The greens were very fast so many thanks to Iain Gunn and his staff for the wonderful condition of the course and to the staff in the clubhouse for looking after us so well.

The autumn tournament took place at Bolton Old Links. The sun shone on us, the winner was Kevin Sweeney. Bolton Old has magnificent views from the top and is a credit to Steve Helmsley and his staff. Thanks Steve for a great day.

Two other events happening in our Region were the Rigby Taylor Classic, held at Wilmslow. This was won by Ian Kirwan, of Widnes GC, and the BIGGA Whitelaw Bowl held at Penrith GC. The winner of this event escapes me at the moment, only kidding Phil. With a massive 40 pts Phil Dewhurst, from Rigby Taylor, was awarded the trophy.

As this is the last edition for 2010 may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year from all the committee in the NW

Please feel free to contact us on pdmv@hotmail.co.uk or

phone 07885347818 or even leave a post on the North West's very own facebook page.

Good tidings to all,  
Peter McVicar



## Sheffield

Hello everyone,

I hope you all have almost finished your shopping and are ready for the festivities to begin, as I write this at the beginning of November, I know that when this is published I will not have even given shopping a second thought. I hope those that are close to me are prepared for panic buy presents again this year.

I'm sure all who attended the Christmas competition at Lindrick GC will have had a good day; the results will be in next month's magazine.

I don't know if any of you are aware but Ron Ullathorne, a former Section Committee member, who did a great amount of work for our Section has recently had a new hip fitted. I hear that Ron is recovering well and I'm sure you will all agree that it will be good to see Ron back attending Section events soon.

Once again the pay recommendations haven't done us any favours in getting a rise for 2011 - hopefully some golf club Treasurers will take pity on us.

Unfortunately that's all I have this month. I hope you all have a fantastic Christmas and it's a better New Year for us all.

James Stevens

Jimmy\_jams20@hotmail.com

07738719614



## Cleveland

Hi everyone, hope you're all ok, fit and well.

Firstly, a big well done to Peter Hibkiss, of Blackwell Grange GC for achieving an NPTC Level 2 Diploma. I believe Peter achieved this a few months' ago, but I didn't get any news in because

on one thing and another.

The Autumn Golf Day took place at the new Rockcliffe Hall GC on October 13 and was sponsored by Rigby Taylor under close guidance from the wonderful Jamie Applegarth. So a big thanks to Jamie and Rigby Taylor for sponsoring the event.

I was unable to be there this year but I am told that the course was in great condition. Congratulations and thanks to Dave, Pete and all the rest of the greens staff for providing an excellent course. It was a great opportunity to play what is sure to be a course that will hold our events in the future so a big thank you to all who were involved in setting up the day and for Rockcliffe Hall GC and their staff for allowing us to play and making it a great day.

The results were as follows:

1. Dave Cuthbertson, 39pts (Must have been home advantage!);
2. Ian Stuart, 33pts;
3. Garry Frazer, 31pts;
4. Ollie Shepard, 30pts;
5. Danny Simpson, 29pts;
6. Ian Dunnerbie, 28pts;
8. Graham Regan, 27pts;
8. Ian Holoran, 26pts;
9. Tracey Maddison (Better back 9) 24pts;
10. Alan Reid, 24pts.

Nearest the Pin was won by Dave Cuthbertson, Longest Drive was won by Baz Walker. Best par 3s was won by Dave Cuthbertson. Finally, the "Shortest Drive" booby prize was won by Ian Pemberton.

The golf was followed by a lovely meal.

Bottles and prizes were also provided, in no particular order, from, Blade Amenity, Lloyd Ltd, Boxer Chemicals, Greenlay, Sisis, Aitkens, Border Sports, Claytons and Pinseeker. Thanks to all of the above for their continual support of the Cleveland Section during the golf events.

Finally, thanks as usual to Ian Pemberton for his efforts in planning and organising the golf days, and carrying out numerous tasks during the day. Also thanks to anyone who pitched in to help out on the day.

The Cleveland Section AGM would have been and gone by the time you read this news letter, I will provide info on the meeting next time.

Terry Charlton's Annual Quiz against the boys from the IOG will be taking place at Mount Oswald GC on December 9. I am told the start time is 7pm. This quiz has been branded as the true Clash of the Titans, and is

set to put the Nigel Benn v Chris Eubank clashes to shame. So come along and get your thinking caps on and support this great event and get one over on the groundsmen.

The annual "Bring a Bottle" golf event at Cleveland Golf Club will take place on December 15. You must arrive for 9.15am sharp. The cost is £15 for golf and if the past is anything to go by, a great meal in the clubhouse afterwards. Participants must bring a wrapped bottle along as a prize as per usual. There will be no cash payment on the day. Payments must be made up front and cheques made payable to Ian Pemberton can be posted to Ian Pemberton, 6 Rosewood Court, Marton, Middlesbrough, Cleveland, TS7 8QR and Ian can be contacted on 07791695768.

This is a great day, and early booking is recommended as the previous years have been very popular. It's also a good opportunity for us "Parkland, meadow grass loving lads" to see what all the fuss is about on those alien fescue greens!

The spring tournament will be held at Middlesbrough (Brass Castle) Golf Club on April 5, 2011. More info will follow prior to the event but be sure to get in early as I am sure it will be a popular one.

Last bit of news is from me. Just to say that I got married to my girlfriend of 11 years, Selena, on September 4. We had a great day and a fab honeymoon.

That's all for now

Any news

Kevin Scarce 07921817857  
kevscarce@aol.com

## Midland



## Midland

Our Autumn tournament was held at the lovely venue that is Beau Desert Golf Club and our greatest of thanks to them for allowing us the day.

The course was as expected in tip top condition in its entirety as prepared by C.M. Steve Mucklow and his obviously expert team.

Very well done folks. The main prize table was sponsored by Campey Turf

Care, our thanks to them. The results of the day were: Best Gross; Mike Hughes. Nett; 1. Vince Gilroy. 2. Simon White. 3. Richard Beacham. Division winners; 1. Wayne Banner. 2. Rhys Thomas. 3. Paul Jefferies. Trade; Tony Cheese. N.T.P. Vince Gilroy, Keith Swan, Leigh Swann, and Steve Mucklow, sponsored by Sherriff Amenity, White Moss, and British Seed Houses.

For more years than I care to remember the Midland Section has played an annual match against the East Midland Section, this year being no exception. Such was played at Stanton-on-the-Wolds Golf Club on October 14. After a good morning session the Midlands took a slender one point lead into the afternoon singles, 3 points to 2. Unfortunately we could not hold on, and lost by the narrowest margin of 7 to 8. I now know how the Americans must have felt at Celtic Manor! Many thanks to Tony Cheese and Rigby Taylor for their hospitality, which was second to none as always. Come on boys, if we continue to keep being beaten each year we'll end up known as the Silver Salver Section!

Now for an apology for a clanger in last month's Notes. I stated that the Christmas event at Woburn is to be sponsored by Tacit when in fact such is to be by Crocodile Golf. However Tacit has for many years sponsored our Christmas event and the Section thanks them for such. And the Section's thanks to Crocodile Golf for this year's main prize table, and looking forward to reporting on the results next month. Sorry for any confusion to all.

This month's calendar page is of the Wrekin Golf Club and the Wrekin Hill can be seen on the distant left of the picture. As we all know "you must go around the Wrekin" however each year a charity run is organised to go over such. To avoid going "Around the Houses" for your top dressings etc please see this month's calendar sponsors Whitmosse: [www.whitmosseco.co.uk](http://www.whitmosseco.co.uk) <<http://www.whitmosseco.co.uk/>> or call Mike Whitehouse on: 07795 395 669.

And finally a few words from our Section Secretary, Andy Smith:

Mike Firman Retires-Olton

Golf Club 1980-2010.

The end of the year sees the retirement of Mike Firman, Course Manager of Olton Golf Club, a position he has held for 30 years. Mike followed his father Bill into greenkeeping at Harbourne Golf Club before going on to manage Shirley Golf Club and then Edgbaston, and then taking on the helm at Olton. I (Andy) served my apprenticeship under Mike becoming his Deputy, which set me on my way in greenkeeping. Mike was an excellent teacher in the art of greenkeeping and a course manager ahead of his time. The lessons I learnt from him have stood me and many other a greenkeeper in good stead to this day. Our thanks. Mike you are always welcome to pop-in for a brew anytime at Shirley and I'm sure that the rest of the section join me in wishing you and your lovely wife, Jan, a well earned retirement together.

My thanks to Andy, Rhys, and Ed for the above.

Wishing all a merry Christmas.

Sean McDade



East of England

Hello all.

Apologies for the lack of an article in the last magazine, no excuses, it completely slipped my mind. However, when the entire future of your golf club is hanging by a thread then these things happen. I am pleased to say that through the overwhelming support and generosity of our small membership the short to mid-term future of the place is secure and with a lot of hard work so to will be the long term future.

Anyway, plenty to report this month. Firstly the eagerly anticipated Greenkeepers vs Trade match took place on September 22, at Lincoln Golf Club, Torksey. This year the Trade managed to turn out a full team, however despite that the Greenkeepers came away with a satisfying 4 - 2 victory. Many thanks go to all the staff at Torksey, especially Adi and his greenstaff for producing a course in excellent condition despite the fact the greens had

been hollow cored only two days previous. Thanks also to the sponsor for the day, Tony Kvedaras of Independent Turfcare Solutions. The medals look great by the way!

Our annual golf and AGM took place on October 14, at Louth Golf Club. A disappointing turnout for the day, however, those who did play enjoyed a course in excellent condition and excellent hospitality from the clubhouse. Many thanks also to LMS for sponsoring the day. The winners were as follows, longest drive - Ian Collett; Nearest the Pin - Russ Moody; 3rd - Robin Portess, Russ Moody; 2nd - Ian Collett, Ian Benn; 1st Rob Bemment, Phil Wilkinson.

On October 21, our team of Rob Bemment, Rob Welford and Ash Cox defended their Midland Region Inter-Section Championship at Frilford Heath. They did this in style and once again came away victorious. Well done.

Our next golf day is the Christmas Bring and Win at Sleaford Golf Club on Thursday, December 16. Tee off at 11am. Please contact Bruce Hicks if you would like to play.

All that is left to say is all the best for Christmas and the New Year (that has come around quickly!)

Hope everyone can make it to Harrogate.

Steve Beverly, Immingham Golf Club.



East Midlands

After a few quiet months the Section has been a hive of activity this month, so with space limited I will get on! First was the annual Midlands vs East Midlands match played at Stanton on the Wolds GC. This match has been likened to the Ryder cup - only BIGGA! Sorry! With the East Midlands recording four consecutive victories the midlands came eager to set the record straight, and after winning the morning fourballs were in pole position. However, a spirited fight back in the afternoon singles saw the contest come down to the last match played by yours truly, let's just say a nervy last hole

## Assistant Profile

*Our monthly look into the life of an assistant greenkeeper...*

**Name:** Alex Clarricoates  
**Age:** 18  
**Club:** Newark GC  
**Position:** Assistant  
**Nickname:** Clarrijackets/Lightning



### 1. How long have you been greenkeeping?

Two years

### 2. What was it about the career that attracted you?

Working outside, seeing wildlife, learning how to maintain courses and free golf!

### 3. If you weren't a greenkeeper what do you think you'd be?

A full time golfer

### 4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?

Construction because it is more hands on and it makes a change from cutting.

### 5. Which task do you least enjoy doing and why?

Raking bunkers because it takes forever.

### 6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot?

More golfing

### 7. Hobbies?

Golf and football

### 8. Favourite Band?

S Club 7

### 9. Which team do you support (football or otherwise)?

Nottingham Forest

### 10. What is your claim to fame?

Played football at Grantham Town football stadium

### Want to appear as an Assistant Profile?

To receive a questionnaire, email [scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk)

# Around The Green

saw the East midlands retain the trophy 8-7. Thanks to Dan Branson and his team at Stanton for his efforts on the course, it was in fantastic condition.

The Autumn competition at Hinckley and AGM followed a week later, the format was three man teams, the competition was sponsored by Sherriff Amenity, British Seed Houses, Boughton Loam and Tacit. Although wayward off the tee I saw enough off the course to say it was in excellent condition and a good day was had by all. The winners were the team of Nigel Colley, Craig Watt, and Gary Thurman with a score of 76 points. Other winners were Nigel Colley (nearest the pin in two) Carl Chamberlain (nearest the pin) and Lee Wenlock (longest drive).

At the AGM, after two years current Chairman Nick Miles stepped down, he will remain on the committee as regional representative, and he is sincerely thanked for all his hard work as Chairman. As a result I was appointed Section Chairman, and in replacement to Nigel Colley, who had stepped down earlier in the year, Greg Skinner was appointed Vice Chairman. Andy de Wet continues as Section Secretary and Treasurer, with myself and Greg Skinner continuing to organise training and write the magazine articles, finally Carl Chamberlain will remain as trade representative.

Finally you will soon be having invites for the Christmas competition to be played at The Nottinghamshire Golf and Country Club (formally known as Cotgrave Place), this is a great event and there should be a guest speaker, so come along and support your Section.

Regards to all  
Pete Smith

## South West and South Wales



### Devon and Cornwall

Hello all! Now we are fully in to our season of events. Our November meeting was held at Porthpean Golf Club near St Austell, Cornwall, on Thursday, November 4. A relatively new

18 hole course, born from the vision of the previous landowner, farmer. The whole of the back nine has views across St Austell Bay and the Clubhouse has fantastic position looking across the bay too. The 18 hole course is maintained by two staff, Andrew Prouse, Head Greenkeeper, and David Daw, First Assistant. The Golf course was in great condition and very well presented. It is a popular course in the area with 100 new members joining this year. The Course is testament to the dedication, passion and commitment of both Andrew and David, both of whom regularly attend our BIGGA meetings within the Section. To back this up, 60 attendees enjoyed a fantastic day with approximately 40 attending a course walk led by Andrew, who gave a very interesting and eye-opening account of the trials and tribulations of maintaining a golf course at this end of the market, with few and at times no resources to work with! I know Andrew was very nervous and apprehensive leading up to the day, but all those who attended said that Andrew gave a very real and professional account of himself on the course walk. Well done Andrew!

The rest of us played golf with the format for the day being Individual Stableford playing for the Toro Cup, supplied by DGM and Toro. The winner on the day was none other than David Daw, Porthpean GC, with 41pts, much ribbing followed! In second was Anthony James (Jacko), Killiow GC, with 39pts, and in third was "yours truly" with 34pts. Longest Drive on the 6th was won by Gordon Tamblin, Mullion GC. Nearest the Pin on the 11th was won by Kevin Pitts, Fingle Glen.

Many thanks to our sponsors for the day, "Scotts" and "Devon Garden Machinery", for their support and for supplying the prizes. After lunch, Tim Fell, Managing Director of Tillers Turf, gave a very interesting Educational presentation on "Large-scale commercial turf production". Tim talked about the scale of the processes needed to produce the volume, variety and quality of turf required. Tim also touched on some of the projects they have been involved in including supplying to Wentworth for their recent redevelopment and projects in the Far East.

Thanks to Tim for making the long trip from Lincoln to Cornwall and for a very interesting presentation. Once again, thanks to Porthpean Golf Club for their kind hospitality and in particular Andrew and David for all their hard work. Thank you for a fantastic day!

Our next meeting will be our "Christmas meeting" at Saunton Golf Club, North Devon. The day will consist of Golf or a Course walk, followed by a three course Christmas lunch and after dinner entertainment. If you haven't already contacted me to secure your place, then please do so soon as it is anticipated to be a very popular meeting.

George Pitts  
Section Secretary  
07929 754401  
gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com



### South West

What a great time we had at Worlebury GC for our Section's AGM. The course was in fantastic condition, a great credit to Jaime Acton and all his staff Paul Garland will hopefully remember to bring everything with him next time, forgetting your trousers for the evening and having to wear your golfing ones isn't the best look.....but on a more serious note, it was brilliant to see so many of you attend, thanks people!

The prizes were as followed, nearest the pin at the 2nd Allen Smith and at the 12th Simon Rattenbury. The overall winners, 3. Ed "The Duck" Parsloe, 39 pts; 2. Allen Smith, 42 pts and after count back our winner was, Stuart Broom. Well done guys. While on the subject of golf days, Lansdown is our next stopping point, Thursday, December 16. See you all there!

I would just like to bring to your attention some training course that will be made available to you very soon. Tractor spraying, Chainsaw and Excavator training courses are what you guys are asking for. Dates and venues are yet to be arranged, this will determine interest from yourselves (you tell us when you want and where you want it and we'll do our best to ensure this happens). Also Laurence Pithie would like to invite you to his

workshops. A workshop titled BUDGETING & PLANNING, this would be made available to you, again a date and venue would be organised around you guys.

As I continue to talk about education, Harrogate Week is almost with us. Looking through the manual, it looks as though we have a brilliant range of courses this time. Harrogate Week is extremely important to our industry. Ensure you show your support this year by doing your very best to attend. By attending in January will ensure we get to go the following year and the year after and again the year after that.....

Remember that we also have our own South West Section facebook page, proving to be very useful, only for it grows as more of you become involved. If you are not a member of the page, its time you were, ask more for the link and ill happily forward it to you.

As 2010 comes to an end, I would like to thank each and every one of you guys for all your help and support throughout the year. I can only do what I do because you guys allow me to, I hope that we can continue this for 2011. As an industry, we really have had an amazing year!

Something that I would like to add in each news letter is a little joke, however I need your help with this because I'm not the greatest with jokes, "Golf..... the only time it's acceptable for a man to hold an iron." Remember, your turn next month!

Keep talking to me, keep telling what you're thinking, what you what.....and we'll do it for you.

adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk  
Adam Matthews  
07732503855



### South Wales

Hi Everyone

First, a report on recent activities in the section:

On Thursday, October 14 the Section's Autumn golf meeting was held at Brynhill Golf Club. A good turnout found the course in excellent condition, which was a credit to Iain Grant and his staff. The only let down that day

was the weather, which was cold and overcast. The results of the golfing action were as follows: 1. John Bevan, Cradoc, 36pts; 2. Jamie Probert, Pontardawe, 35pts; 3. Mel Leach, Glynhir GC, 33pts. Nearest the Pin. Stuart Douglas; Longest Drive. Jamie Probert. Trade prize: Peter Lacey. Farmura Environmental, 38pts

Our thanks go out to Brynhill Golf Club for allowing us courtesy of the course, to Iain Grant and his team for presenting a great golf course, to the caterers for an excellent meal and to club captain for helping to present the prizes provided by the day's sponsors, David Evans, of DEAL Machinery, local agents for Ransomes Jacobsen. A big thank you to them.

Also held at this event was the Section AGM. It was a quiet affair, apart from Steve Chappell's 'Bob Flemming from The Fast Show' type coughing fit! I think it was the infamous 'Celtic Cough' that inflicted so many of those who worked at the Ryder Cup! As a result Chairman, Paul Handy, stepped in and not only chaired the AGM, but also acted as MC for the evening as well. And a fine job you did as well Paul! The only news of note to come from the AGM being the voting on to committee of Ian Kinley, of Royal Porthcawl, and Gareth Knight, of Trefloyne GC, replacing Julian Bartlett Jones, as Regional Board Member.

The Rigby Taylor Matchplay tournament was held at Trefloyne GC on October. As you know, it has been a different format this year with 4 teams of two qualifying for the final. First, the semis were held with Andrew Roach/Gareth Knight and Darryl Jones/Steve Chappell winning their respective matches. Then the final was held in the afternoon with Andrew and Gareth winning a closely fought contest which was finally settled on the 17th. Darryl Jones won the Nearest the Pin competition and Rob Williams won Longest Drive. All were then treated to the tremendous hospitality that Trefloyne provides courtesy of the guys from Rigby Taylor. So thanks to Trefloyne GC for hosting the event and to Rigby Taylor for agreeing to sponsor the event again this year.

Now some sad news. I just heard that two well known people from the turf industry have recently passed away.

Firstly, Don Chillery, who was formerly Head Greenkeeper at both Caerphilly GC and finally Radyr GC before retiring to Cardigan in the '90s. Don was also a sales representative for Fisons a long time ago. I met Don on a few occasions and he was a consummate professional and a gentleman to boot!

I also learned of the death of Bill Hardiman MBE. Bill was Head Groundsman at the old Arms Park and a keen and loyal IOG man, becoming vice President for the South Wales Section. Like Don, Bill was a gentleman who always had time for people. He was also proud of his Valleys roots and was Head Groundsman of the cricket pitch at Pontypridd park many moons ago! Our condolences go out to their families as they will be sadly missed.

I have also just heard that Iain Grant's mother passed away recently, so our condolences to Iain and his family.

The Christmas Competition will be held on Thursday, December 16, at Royal Porthcawl GC. Tee off time is 10.30am. Invites should be with you by now. Cost of the day is £20. If you haven't had one and wish to attend the please give Steve Chappell a ring as it's a great chance to play a top links course, and have a Christmas dinner and all for £20!

Also, I believe that the Section is planning to send a fact finding delegation to Porthcawl town in the evening in the hope of sampling the many types of beverage that can be purchased at the local taverns and to sample the food from various exotic countries such as China, India and Turkey. Ask for details.

Spare a thought also for Dean Thomas, Head Greenkeeper at Pennard GC, where some of the greens and tees were vandalised recently. Dean has just had some soil tests back from the STRI and have shown Glyphosate and a small amount of Paraquat in the samples. Dean has already done a valiant job of overseeding recently and some of the local clubs, Langland Bay and Morriston, have kindly loaned them some germination sheets. So good luck Dean, I'm sure that greenkeepers everywhere will sympathise with your situation.

Good luck to Mark Wilshire, currently of Newport GC, who is soon to become Head Greenkeeper at Wenvoe Castle GC.

Well done Mark!

Finally, I have said some cruel remarks about my beautiful wife, Donna, in recent columns. So let me just say that she is a wonderful wife and she has just brought me a bacon roll! Good thing that I heard her walking up the stairs, as I was wrapping her Christmas present at the time. Good thing ironing boards fit easily under beds!

That's all for now! Have a great Christmas and a prosperous new year! Nadolig Llawen a blwyddyn newydd dda!

Ceri Richards



## South Coast

Good Day Fellow Greenkeepers.

As I sit and write this, we have just had 40 mm of rain in the last 48 hours,

a lovely welcome back from a week in South Africa as a Guest of Ransomes Jacobsen, one of the best EDUCATIONAL trips of my life with the temperature topping 32 degrees.

Lovely!

The Autumn outing was played in terrific sunshine over Broadstone Golf Club, the golf course was in fantastic shape a real credit to Ade Archer and his staff. I had the pleasure of playing with Ade and Colin Hutt on the day and all I will say is Ade don't give up the day job to become a caddie.

A big thank you to all at Broadstone from the Section who helped make for a great day especially the Captain and Council who allowed us courtesy of your excellent golf course. And not forgetting our sponsor for the day Rigby Taylor.

We had a great turn out for this day with over 45 members taking part the results were as follows:

Cat. 0-14. 1. T. Gadd, 36pts; 2. T. Crouch, 35pts; C. Pardley, 34pts. Cat. 15-28 1. A. Smith 35pts, 2. S. Justice, 34pts; 3. C. Hutt, 34pts,

Two's B. Davies and S. Ridland

We held the Section AGM after the golf and a number of topics were discussed

Tony advised the meeting that there was a place on the committee for anyone interested

there were no takers at the time, but the offer still stands if anybody out there is interested we would love to hear from you just contact anyone of the committee and we will get back to you.

A great deal of discussion then took place on the future of our golf days and how we can get the numbers up. The committee were given a lot of ideas but again if any of you guys have any specific thoughts on how we can improve your day any get more people along we would love to hear from you.

I would like to welcome Rob Willis and Tom Baker to Remedy, joining me from Canford Magna and Dudsbury Golf Clubs respectively good luck guys. If you know of any others on the move please let me know and I will tell the Section.

On a sad note our long serving treasurer, Fred Deaman, has been made redundant after his club, Alton Golf Club, shut their doors and ceased trading. I am sure you will all join me in wishing Fred the very best of luck in the future whatever path you choose to follow.

Just a quick reminder for the Turkey Trot at Barton on December 13, see you there.

Robert Hogarth

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## South East



## East Anglia

An overcast day with an autumnal feel greeted the happy wanderers, about fifty in number to Saffron Walden. A bacon roll and a cup of coffee was all that was needed to set them off into the great unknown. It must be about ten years or more since we were last there and it was nice to be back.

Just how nice it was, was reflected in the scores which are as follows:- 0 - 9 Handicap 1. Matt Gill, 40pts; 2. James Burton, 37pts; 3. Richard Southall, 35pts. 10-18 Handicap. 1. Glen Rayfield, 36pts; 2. David Farmer, 35pts; 3. Ben Pearson, 31pts. 19-28 handicap. (Only seven entrants so prizes for first two only) 1. Adrian Goode, 39pts;

# Around The Green

2. Andy Baker, 32pts. Guest & Trade. 1. J. Wright, 37pts; 2. D. Duffell, 36pts. Longest Drive: Mike Buck. Nearest the Pin. Steve Coona. Loo Seat Recipient.

Edward Clarkson was running over his own clubs in the car park; (ouch!)

The Captain and Greenkeeper Shield was won by Mike Buck and J Wright with 70 points.

Runners up were David Farmer and D. Duffell with 68 points.

The day was sponsored by Lely UK.

Other prizes were from Ben Burgess, Tomlinson Ground Care, Symbio, Rigby Taylor, Bartram Mowers, Aitkens, Scotts, Baileys of Norfolk, Headland, Tacit, Sheriff, Collier Turf Care, CMW and Ransomes Jacobsen.

Prizes were presented by Nick Baker, Club Captain.

The course was presented by Ray Goodshal and his team in very fine shape – (the course that is).

We must also thank Clive Osgood, our BIGGA representative, for showing up. He never misses (unlike me) – Well done Clive.

The food was lovely, so thank you Saffron Walden; see you in 10 years.

It's the big one next:- Thorpe-ness Turkey Trot –December 15– be there. Due to the recession and the price of Christmas puddings, the cost of the day will be £30 and it's not buy one get one free!

Mick Lathrope



## Kent

I can't believe we've come to the end of another year. This has, without doubt, been one of the most difficult years from a business point of view. What with the much talked about global recession which has affected everything not being bad enough, we were also hit by several weeks of snow at the start of the year compounding the financial burden to breaking point for many. I suppose England's failure to turn up for the World Cup in South Africa minimised the expected lean period on our courses during the summer but we were still on the back foot for much of the season.

Unfortunately, a number of clubs have succumbed to the weight of the financial responsibilities and we can only wish that their employees are able to find work quickly and that the clubs eventually find buyers.

I don't want this column to be too downbeat, however, as we are coming up to Christmas after all. By the time you read this, we shall have just played our Turkey Trot and held our AGM at Birchwood. At the time of writing, there are quite a lot of applicants to join us on the day so I hope you all enjoyed it! We have a full events programme booked up for next year and a couple of changes with a summer pairs knockout tournament and a 'Golfer of the Year' trophy for all to contend. Please see website for all the details.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our loyal sponsors for the very generous support they have provided us this year. Especially in the light of the business climate highlighted at the start of this piece. Their contribution to this section enables us to not only attend a number of courses a year at a subsidised rate, but also helps provide an education programme to be proud of. Thank you to all and I shall be writing to you all again soon!

I would also like to say farewell and good luck to our Association's Chief Executive, Mr John Pemberton, who has tirelessly fought the cause of the downtrodden greenkeepers for a very long time. He leaves some very big shoes to fill.

Lastly, on behalf of Kev Morris and myself, I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Best of British one and all,  
Rob Holland  
[www.kentgreenkeepers.com](http://www.kentgreenkeepers.com)



## Surrey

Tuesday November 2. Hanley Common GC was excellent today and welcomed again the annual England v Scotland Golf Extravaganza. I had not been selected, but a late English cancellation meant that Tony Bremer, the English Captain, had little option but to phone me yesterday and beg me to play.

With no hesitation, I willingly agreed but it was not my day and my indifferent golf did not help my playing partner, Adie Locke. We lost our match to our very competent opponents, Steve Holmes and Posh Jim Russell. The Scottish team won 4 and 2 and many congratulations to them for winning the Shield for the first time this century. John Ross made the speech on behalf of Scotland and as his accent had no hint of a Gaelic lilt, his expletives and ungentlemanly hand gestures were well understood by all. Tony Bremer's speech on behalf of England on the other hand was dignified in defeat and any indecorous reference to Haggis Eaters and Bagpipe Players was merely friendly banter.

Thursday October 14. Three Rivers GC, in Essex, was the venue for the Surrey v Sussex v Essex annual Three Section golf match. I am pleased to report that Surrey were victorious, Essex were runners up and Sussex, the team for which I played, came third. Next year it is unlikely that I will be available to play in team events, so please don't ask as my clubs are now resident in the Solent after falling off the Isle of Wight ferry.

Sunday November 8 - 5 pm. and just back from a long weekend with all the family in Studland Bay, Dorset. Yesterday, Saturday, was sunny, windless and the perfect weather for a long country walk through the local boggy heathland, then on to Studland Bay beach for the last mile home. The Naturist beach section seemed empty of sun-worshippers until the last 50 yards, and then we saw him lying in all his glory and oblivious to all onlookers. He was an older man and aptly described by my son-in-law as 'all under-carriage and no gun'. He was not there the next day, for the temperature had dropped some 10 degrees, too cold even for the bravest of the brave.

Brian Willmott



## Essex

This month has flown by; I have attended a Regional and National Board meeting and been away for a week's photographic

holiday in Istanbul. Flying out of Stansted in late October the leaves on the trees were a lovely shade of green, returning just one week later and they had turned to the beautiful autumn colors that we all love to see but hate at the same time, as it now means we have a lot of clearing up to do.

As this year draws to a close, our Chairman, Mark Stopps, committee and members of the Essex Section would like to thank the sponsors of our Section for the support and help that has been received from them this year.

The following companies have supported the section over the past year.

Advantage Environmental, Avoncrop Amenity Products, Bailey's of Norfolk, Banks Amenity Products, Billericay Farm Services, Blade Amenity, B.M.S. Chaingreen Ltd (Sea Nymph), CMW Equipment Ltd, Collier Turf Care, Ernest Doe & Sons Ltd, Fieldfare Amenity, GM Amenity, Golf Mats UK, Grasshopper Horticultural Ltd, Headland Amenity Products, Limagrain UK, Old Forge Mowers, Prime Irrigation, Rainbird, Rigby Taylor Ltd, Scotts Professional, Tey Farm Services, P. Tuckwell Ltd, Writtle College.

We have all had a busy time at work this past month the Section's Knockout Trophy final, plus the Triangular Match against Sussex and Surrey.

Ten members from our Section joined with ten each from Sussex and Surrey to play the annual Triangular.

Held this year in our Section, the match over 18 holes at Three Rivers Golf and Country Club, it was hard fought affair with Sussex coming out on top with a score of 252 from Essex with 278 and Surrey a little further back with 289. Nearest the Pins were Gary Ogilvie (Sussex) 9th hole and Kevin Boxall (Surrey) 16th Hole, Longest Drive on the 3rd Kevin Boxall. The match was run off at a fast pace with everyone back in the club in 3.50 minutes, damp conditions on a cold day, with the course in autumn condition greeted the players (images on the website).

Our thanks to Ernest Doe & Sons and to Andy Turbin for sponsoring the day, Andy also played for our team and then presented the prizes after the fine meal put on by the club. Our thanks for the courtesy of

the course go to Terry Peachey the owner of Three Rivers and to the club house and greens staff for looking after us so well.

The London Club was the venue for the Knockout final between Ray Clark, Channels, & Jon Selwood, Avoncrop, and their opponents, Dougie Fernie & Bill Maynard, Upminster GC. Due to Ray being unable to attend at the last moment, Jon unfortunately had to play the match on his own.

Played on the International Course at the London Club, the match was played off in fine but cool weather, with the course in a nice condition, there were some nice but tough Par 3s, with some other very stunning holes and the course was well appointed with water hazards. Jon reported that Dougie played his socks off with long irons and fairway woods peppering the flag at every opportunity.

Jon managed to hold his own up until the 11th but then it slowly slipped away in the final few holes, too lose to Dougie and Bill by 5 & 4. Well done to both teams for getting through to the final and well done to Dougie and Bill for a fine win.

The Essex Section wishes to thank Peter Todd for arranging the match and the London Club for there kind hospitality and courtesy of the course.

Our Chairman has been a busy boy over the past weeks, totally changing the 14th hole at Bentley Golf Club, he's removed that tree which has caused so many of us problems over the years and adding another problem by enhancing and enlarging the pond to the left of the green. Then adding mounds to the rear of the green and extending a ditch to the right of the approach. I for one look forward to seeing the new style hole in the near future.

Last month Geoff Smith, Course Manager at Abridge Golf Club, successfully climbed Mount Kilimanjaro for charity, well done to him and I hope to have a full report in a coming issue of this magazine.

Bad weather has hit the South East as I write this, with wind and rain driving the temperature down. Looks like we are in for a long hard winter this year.

Please look out for a new look website in the early part of January, hopefully I will have time over the Christmas period to get some work done on it and make

some more changes and add some more features.

Next month's report will be of the Winter Team Event and AGM which by the time you read this will have just past.

If you have any news for the website or for GK International please contact me on 07764-862.337 or via e-mail [essex-bigga@talktalk.net](mailto:essex-bigga@talktalk.net)

Arnold Phipps-Jones  
Press Officer

## Chairman's Word (continued from page 13)

...You have lots of opportunities to meet new people and helping to organise events and influencing outcomes can look very good on your CV. It can make you more promotable. It can help you to have more influence over the way the association is run at local, regional, national and international level.

Again it is a free seminar but places are limited so please make sure you register early by contacting Sami or Rachael at BIGGA HQ or download, complete and send off the booking form. Both these free seminars will be hosted by conference favourite Frank Newberry whose 'Moving into Management' Workshop on 16th and 17th January 2011 has already sold out nearly three months in advance.

## Silence is unlikely to advance this great profession

In the meantime – to quote a well-known supermarket – 'Every little Helps'. May I ask you to contact your local BIGGA official and tell him or her just what is on your mind? Perhaps you have some ideas they can use to boost local participation. Perhaps you could give them some feedback on what they have been doing. Perhaps you could give the Board some feedback. Perhaps you could give me some feedback. Whatever is on your mind please say it - rather than be silent. Silence is unlikely to advance this great profession!

In the meantime – have a great Christmas and New Year. I'll be writing again in January which will be my last posting in the magazine as your Chairman. 2010 may have been difficult - let's make 2011 a better year. I am hoping for better results and better progress for our profession – much better.

Paul Worster



**John  
Pemberton**  
Chief  
Executive

December already and as the calendar marches on our sights in the office fix not just on Christmas, but also on BIGGA's annual event at Harrogate in January. This year is no different to any other in that respect, the pressure is on the Sales Team to sell the last few remaining stands and we are all eagerly watching the numbers rise on the bookings for the education and social programme.

Meanwhile the daily life in BIGGA HOUSE must continue, Membership Renewals and Applications to be processed, a magazine to write and design, advertising to sell, numbers to be crunched, papers to be pushed around, emails to be dealt with. While the turnover may be relatively small compared to some businesses it often surprises me when I stop and think about things, just how much work goes into making the Association function. The diversity of activities is what makes the Association tick.

Times may be difficult in this country in general, and let's make no mistake BIGGA is feeling the effect of the recession, but it is by no means in financial trouble. Having read a recent posting on the Bulletin Board it seems that the end is nigh. Not so believe you me. The profit for the year to the end of June 2010 was after all a profit and not a loss. This year so far we are ahead of budget, so more good news. Let's celebrate our successes and look at what we have built BIGGA into rather than dwell on the downturn and get depressed.

That's not to say that we should be over confident and ignore the trials and tribulations that we all face in 2011. Next year will be tough, there is no doubt about it in my mind, and BIGGA will need to do some careful strategic planning in order to maintain the current level of service to its Membership and the Industry.

As we head towards the end of 2010 I would like to personally thank the Staff at BIGGA HOUSE (and let's not forget that this includes the four Regional Administrators) for all the help and support that they have given me during the year.

We have faced many challenges together and come through all the stronger for it and their dedication to the advancement of the Association is only equalled by the efforts of the volunteers within the Sections, Regions and the National Board, without whom BIGGA would not be where it is today, at the forefront of a very specialist industry and a role model for others.

My remaining time with BIGGA is slowly being counted down but I assure members that I will continue to strive to ensure its success. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and may Good Luck and Good Fortune come your way in 2011.

John Pemberton  
Chief Executive