

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

What a winter! As I sit here writing this I still hope to see many old friends at BTME in the middle of January but given the amount of snow and ice currently covering the St Andrews Courses at the moment, I have reservations about being away for a number of days when (or if) the thaw starts. Speaking to many of the more experienced members of staff and people in the industry you have to go back to the winter of '82 to have seen these conditions before on the coastal courses in this area. It's at times like these you appreciate the friends and contacts you have built up over the years that you can ask for advice.

On the educational front, the CMAE and BIGGA held a one day training seminar on Jan 29, at Ladybank GC, on managing staff and appraisal training. This was hopefully the first of many joint ventures and I hope to be able to report on it more fully in the next report. The Section is planning to run an evening seminar in early April when Stan Zontek, of the USGA, and a couple of friends will be in the area. Again, more details to follow or on the website www.biggacentralsection.org.uk If anyone would like Stan to talk on a specific subject then please contact myself or Gordon McKie. The spring outing is on the Eden Course on Tuesday 6 April (if the snow has gone!).

Gordon Moir



East

Well, what a winter with all the snow that has fallen since mid December. No golf for months the living room carpets must have taken a hammering? Well we should have no problems in sinking these six footers this year on the greens.

Hopefully, we will have a good summer now, with The Open back at the Home of Golf at St. Andrews, with possibly no Tiger Woods, but, hopefully, Seve making an appearance at St. Andrews. We wish Gordon Moir, and all the staff at St. Andrews, a successful Open.

I hope all who went to Harrogate in January enjoyed the experience and I'm sure there will be plenty tales to tell. Our Section Patrons' award winners hopefully have something to tell us about their visit to Harrogate. We look forward to hearing their views in March's report of G.I.

Our Section events kick-off with the re-scheduled visit to Barenbrug seed factory and Falkirk football stadium on February 17. Hope to see a good turn out for this one. Thank you to Greentech for sponsoring the day.

Our Section Secretary as always has put together the golf outings for the year and will add to events as we confirm dates and venues for these events. Please look on the BIGGA website for dates and venues for your diaries.

To all the Section members, who made the time to come along and support all the events that our Section committee organised in 2009, a thank you to them from our committee. Let's see if we can encourage more members this year to support these events.

Tom Murray



North

I start off this month with an apology. I did send last month's news in but obviously it got lost at HQ. I, like yourself always look to the Section news pretty much straight away and was disappointed there was no news. It was the first time since I took over the role of Section news writer that the news hasn't been published so I apologise. Sorry.

Well, hopefully you all enjoyed BTME in Harrogate this year. Whether you flew down or took the train I'm sure it was a memorable experience. Our Deputy at Murcar, Mikey Fullerton, was a Harrogate virgin before this year. Bless him he doesn't get out very often, so I'm sure he would've enjoyed the sites of the town, especially as he was accompanied by Brian Anderson, his boss. Brian would've taken good care of him and had him tucked up in bed every night for 10 o'clock. Somehow I don't think that would have happened!

Hopefully the snow down South didn't spoil the show too much, that's if there was any left. Just a dusting of snow down in Englandshire and the whole place comes to a complete standstill. The snow up here has been pretty heavy and the temperatures have been hitting minus 20. That's cold!

I'm sure that the winter programmes will have been put back a wee while so hopefully by the time you read this we'll be snow free and well on our way. The thing is, once the snow has all melted, a lot of courses have to deal with flooding so realistically we might not get on the courses until mid February/March. That I would imagine would be a major stumbling block if you

do have big Winter schedule. Let me know what you think?

I have recently got back into education through Elmwood College and am doing my HNC in Golf Course Management. I have had to fund this myself and with it being quite expensive I began to look about places where I could get part or all of it subsidised. I was lucky enough to gain a scholarship grant through BIGGA itself. Ransomes Jacobsens sponsor the scholarship scheme and I was fortunate to be partly subsidised for the course. May I take this opportunity to thank David Withers, Managing Director of Ransomes Jacobsens for their continued support with this scheme. Without them I may not of been able to register on the course. It goes to show that if you are thinking of higher education and your club can't contribute towards it, there is help out there, so don't be put off.

Dale Robertson has asked me to mention that he is constantly updating the North Section's website. To access this you have to go on to the BIGGA main website and follow the links. Any probs please give Dale a shout at Newmachar and he'll be only too happy to help you out.

That's all I can muster up for this month. If you do have any stories or news for me then please give me shout on 07813889374. Thank you.

Ben Brookes
Murcar Links

Northern Region



North Wales

I'm sitting in front of the computer writing this and outside the world looks like a scene out

of that film "THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW" what an arctic blast the winter has brought us this year!

The bus to Harrogate ran last month not a full bus but enough passengers to make it a success (just). I hope all who ventured over the Pennines with us enjoyed their day at

BTME.

The Inter-Section spring seminar takes place this month on February 23, at Eaton Golf Club, the topics on offer are Greenkeeping practices past and present, the present and future of chemical use within Greenkeeping and a special feature on drug awareness in the workplace, enough topics to please hopefully even the most seminar cynical Greenkeeper there.

Terry Adamson is hoping to hold another of his successful talunex/phostoxin pest control courses in the north and west coastal region of our Section soon and anyone in that area interested please contact Terry, his number is on the reverse of the Section fixture sheet, or you may already have his number if he serves your club.

In local news, I'm sorry I don't seem to have any! If you have any news, matters of interest or anniversaries you wish to pass on please don't hesitate to contact me. That's about it for this time so...

All the best until next month.

Pete Maybury

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or 0775600187



North East

Well, not a lot of news to report this month but at least it will be more than last month. As all members would see in a recent magazine that Course Manager Brian Consitt, of Linden Hall, had two photos for the BIGGA calendar 2010. Well congratulations, Brian, and sorry it is a bit late but as the saying goes better late than never, No doubt you will have been out again recently with the way the weather has been over Christmas holidays.

Once again thanks to Terry Charlton, of TSL, on providing transport, entertainment and food for the annual visit to BTME, other news is that the Autumn Comp. is booked and

will be played at Gosforth GC [Bridle Path, as it's otherwise known] on Wednesday October 6, tee-off 12noon to 1pm. At this moment in time I am waiting for confirmation for the Spring comp. If all goes well it will be held at City of Newcastle GC. Let's hope I receive good news shortly.

Right, that's all the news I have at the moment. Just to remind everyone, all news will be helpful as all Section Secretaries are getting ear-ache from HQ to have regular monthly reports in the magazine.

Jimmy Richardson



Sheffield

Hello everyone,

My apologies for the lack of news in January issue. I'm sure you will all forgive me.

Hopefully as you read this all the snow has disappeared and you are all continuing with your Winter programmes. It can become a little tedious being inside all the time but I'm sure everyone will be able to look around their maintenance facilities and take great pride in them and all machinery and course furniture will be in tip top shape for the new season.

I would like to thank everyone at Rotherham GC for hosting our Christmas comp. Everyone I spoke to had a great day. A big thanks goes to Dave and his team for getting the golf on as, for some time, it looked as though it wouldn't go ahead. Congratulations to Andy Unwin the overall winner with 52 points (great pin positions Andy). The trade prize went to Mike Brear congratulations Mike. Thanks must go to Mike, and Rigby Taylor, for once again sponsoring the event. Everyone I spoke with really enjoyed the new format of golf that Mike introduced and thought it added a bit of fun to the day. I must also once again thank all our other sponsors over the past year for their continued support.

Once again the AGM passed without any major hiccups. Our committee is as follows:- President. G. Brammah; Chairman. R. Needham; Vice Chairman. I. Whitehead; Treasurer. A. Sampson; Secretary. J. Stevens, and Comp Sec - A. Unwin.

Once again, the committee of your Section will strive to improve on last year and make 2010 a successful year for the Sheffield Section. If anyone wishes to contact me at anytime please feel free, it is nice to hear from you.

James Stevens

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North West

It's early January and cabin fever has begun to set in here at Hesketh. Not the best start to the new golfing year, but things can only get better.

We, as a committee, are working hard trying to raise the profile of the North West region this includes playing some of the best courses in the district, along with various non-golfing activities. A website is also under construction and will hopefully be up and running very soon.

Once again, as Chris always says, turf managers of the North West this is your Section, help us to help you, we can set up training courses, hold seminars, have visits to football grounds, almost anything you want.

We are very fortunate in the North West to have not only some of the best golf courses but also some of the best football stadia, racing tracks, cricket grounds etc etc, we should be utilising this to learn from our peers across the spectrum of sports turf management.

We are also looking for anyone else willing to join the committee, you don't have to be a Course Manager or work on a golf course.

As Chris mentioned in the last report, Adie Holt has taken over as Chairman, from Allan Donlevy, without doubt Adie will do a great job and be a fine ambassador for our region, I can't finish these notes without mentioning the amount of work Alan, Chris (Sheehan) and Billy (Merritt) have carried out over the past few years and continue to do so. They must be applauded for all their efforts.

Finally, I would like to wish you all the very best for the coming season and hope the snow soon melts, if you have any information you would like to share please e-mail it to me

at the address below, otherwise I might have to start talking about Scottish football, and that depresses me even more than the current weather.

Cheers.

Peter McVicar

pdmv@hotmail.co.uk.

Midland Region



East Midlands

As you sit down and read this, your golf course should have recovered from the inches of snow that we had in December. I am sure many of you found it a nice reprieve from your daily duties. When I wrote this Harrogate was on the horizon and by the time you read it Harrogate has gone. So I am going to predict that you all met up with old friends and had a great time and hopefully the March column will be full of stories from Harrogate.

As we go into 2010, we can all but wait for the year to unfold. This year The Open returns to St Andrews and who knows what surprises will unfold, also The Ryder Cup returns to our shores at Celtic Manor, a competition that I am sure everyone eagerly awaits. I would like to wish Toro Student of the Year, Rhys Norville all the best over in America, studying at Umass and I hope he adapts to the cold weather and long study hours.

On matters a bit closer to home I would like to encourage new faces to come to the East Midlands golf days. They are always good days out with good food and good company. It is also a great chance to meet and talk to new people and found out more about the industry that you work in.

The Section held their Christmas competition on December 8 at Wollaton Park. A fantastic day was had by all on a superb course, with great weather. The day was finished by an entertaining after dinner speech by Tim Stimpson, ex Leicester Tigers, England and British Lions Rugby Union player. The winning team on the day was Nigel Colley, Greg Skinner and Mark Chamberlain with 81 pts from a modified team Stableford. Our thanks go to our sponsors of the day - Platts Harris, Rigby Taylor, Colliers Turfcare, Enviropro

H20 and Tacit.

Our thanks also go to all of our sponsors throughout the whole of 2009.

If anyone has anything that they think is worth mentioning, it can be anything, anything at all then please e-mail: Andy de Wet at biggaeastmidlands@hotmail.com.

Matt Wormald

South West and South Wales Region



Devon and Cornwall

Hello all. I'll start by talking about our favourite subject, the weather! We have had two extremes in the last couple of months, very wet or extremely cold, both being very frustrating, with courses having to close for many days in a row. Little we can do as Course Managers and Greenkeepers about the weather, apart from making sure that we communicate why we need to protect and rest the course during these periods. Many courses will have varying degrees of tolerance to frost conditions and allowing play and this has to be judged individually. What I find is more important is that members and guests are fully aware of why these decisions have been made. Let's hope that the Weather Gods will be shining down this spring in what is going to be a very important period, financially, for many clubs this year.

The Christmas meeting was held on December 9 at St Enodoc, in Cornwall and was a huge success. Those Weather Gods were certainly shining down on the 82 attendees who enjoyed golf or a course walk around one of the most stunning Golf Courses in the British Isles. The day was sponsored by MST and Irritech who provided the prizes for the day and special thanks to MST and Ransomes for providing a "Half-way House", stocked generously with cornish pasties, tea, coffee, soft drinks and some hard-stuff too! Scott Gibson, Course Manager, led the course walk and talked us through the

club's history, changes made and changes to be made, finishing off with a tour of their very impressive facilities. The Golf format for the day was Green-somes and the prizes for the day went to: "Holywell Course" 1. Roy Dow and Rob Millman, Chumleigh, 46 pts; 2. James Sheehan, Truro, and Richard Japes, Sports Metals, 46 pts; 3. Andrew Prouse and David Daw, Porthpean, 45 pts. "Church Course" 1. David Moulding and Des Bickle, Bigbury, 36 pts; 2. Simon Clarke and Adrian West, St Mellion, 35 pts, 3. Jason Brooks, Torquay, and Gavin Moore, Launceston, 34 pts.

The day was topped off by a wonderful Christmas meal and entertainment by "Chris James" a very talented magician and mind-reader who had everyone spell bound!! A huge thank you to Tuck Clagett, General Manager, and all the staff at St Enodoc for a great day and special thanks to Scott Gibson and his Greenkeeping team for presenting two wonderful courses.

One event for you diary in February: Spring Educational Seminar, Wednesday, February 17. Three speakers, Steve Giggell, STRI, - Disturbance Theory

Mark Atkins, Soil Harmony, - Life beneath your feet

Andrew Turnbull, Allturf Management, - Carbohydrates "The Brix of life"

Contact Duchy College on 01579 372220

Please contact me if you would like me to include any stories, events, happenings within the Section. Thank you for supporting your section.

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Devon and Cornwall Section
Secretary
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South Wales

As I write this column it is -5 and snowing outside, but my little Rhondda home is nice and warm having allowed the wife to put some more coal on the fire. The local shop is out of bread and milk and travelling along the side streets requires a mixture of dodgy driving skills

and recklessness (so no change for me there then!) All of this is good news for greenkeepers though. We haven't had a good deep prolonged frost like this for a long time (maybe 1986) and organisations like the STRI (other agronomists are available) have said that due to a lack of these prolonged frosts, there has been an increase in Leather Jackets, Chafer Grubs and arguably Nematodes. So we shall see!

Anyway, back to the section and an apology for not bringing you the result of the RT Match-play final at Tenby in last month's edition of GI. In a keenly fought contest the team of Paul Handy and Rhys Norville, of Newport GC, beat Daryl Bray and Leigh Davies, of Morriston. The match started early to beat the promised rain and was played on a well presented Tenby links. Well done to Chris Jenkins and his staff. Both teams were treated to a typical RT night out in town the previous evening with both teams suitably fed and watered! Thanks guys! I'm sure either Rodger Bowles or Steve Blake-man will be casting a close eye over those receipts! I also think that Roy Barker needs to work on his people skills as not only did he proclaim his love for Margaret Thatcher (not advisable in South Wales) but he also told one local lady that she reminded him of Jo Brand! Seriously though guys, to Dave Carvey, Peter Griffiths and Roy Barker, thank you from the Section for sponsoring this great event in 2009. Also thanks to Steve Chappell for the unenviable task of sorting out the draws and to Chris Jenkins and his staff and everyone at Tenby Golf Club for hosting the event, and finally a big well done to Paul and Rhys for their hard fought victory.

Education now and the winter series of evening lectures (sponsored by Countrywide Turf and Amenity) began with Keith Exton, Head Groundsman at The Swalec Stadium (you know, Sophia Gardens) with a talk entitled 'In At The Deep End' at Taffs Well RFC. Keith told us about his experiences in preparing the pitch for the Ashes test match. The 5 days were a triumph and one in the eye for all those people (mostly our dear next door neighbours) who thought that it should not have been held there. Thanks to Keith for his excellent talk, to the South

Wales Branch of the IOG for their organisation and of course to 4.04 Martin Townshend and Peter Holstrom, of Countrywide, for agreeing to sponsor these events again this year.

The next talk will be given by my mate Paul Clifton, of Bayer, at Pencoed College, on February 17, at 7pm. Subject of the talk is on recent developments in chemicals for use on sports turf.

Still on the subject of Education, the annual Avoncrop Amenity Education Seminar takes place at Ashburnham Golf Club on Wednesday March 3. Among those speaking will be representatives from Scotts, Barenbrug, Syngenta, Aquadyne and Farmura. The day is free to attend and includes coffee and a bacon roll on arrival plus buffet lunch. Invites will be with you shortly or you can contact me to reserve a place/places.

That's it for now, I'm off to find some tennis racquets to tie to my feet in order to get to you, my dear and valued customer, only to find you've gone home and are cwtched up in front of a fire!

Ceri Richards
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South Coast

Hi every one

As I sit at my computer wondering what to write, I had the great idea of looking back to see what my previous would-be journalists had written. What a bad idea that was, all it did was to scare the hell out of me.

Any way here goes. Firstly, I must thank the previous writers as they have done a wonderful job and to the next people don't leave to the last minute and very late at night to write as this as it may make life very difficult. You too could end up with writer's block and rambling beginnings!

The seminar this year is once again at Canford Magna Golf Club on March 4, which is a Thursday. The whole day is being devoted to the Disturbance Theory. Under the title of "Forward Thinking/Forward Planning". The speakers will all be from the STRI. We will be the first people to hear this new and

up to date version of their talk. They will have just released it at Harrogate but we will be the first of the Sections. Hopefully you will have had the flyer for the day already and this is just a reminder. As with any thing that you need to ask contact me at chrisbitten@btinternet.com or by phone 07796887633

The fixtures are out for this year and no doubt Kev will tell you about them when it's his turn to write this piece. You will have had your fixture cards by now but if not, they will be on your door mats very soon.

I hope everyone who went to Harrogate Week got something worthwhile out of it and made new friends and met up with old ones

I look forward to seeing you at Canford

Chris Bitten



South West

Hi everyone, I realise 2010 is in full swing now however allow me to wish you all the very best for the year ahead and I hope the ball runs smoothly for everyone, whatever it is you have going! As I write this I guess you're all getting ready for Harrogate, however by the time you read this Harrogate will all be over. So, I hope everyone had a great time and I'm sure your all agree with me by saying what a fantastic week it was.

I would like to congratulate Paul Farragut, from Chipping Sodbury. Paul won this year's Section competition and with that had the opportunity to attend Harrogate this year completely free. This was made possible because of our patronage partners, a huge thank you to them for making this possible. If you would like this to opportunity next year, please hold fire and wait for the details to fellow.

What a great Christmas golf day we had. Firstly, thanks to Nobby for getting the weather just right again! Also hands up if you thought that was one of the best raffles we've had, I think so! We played this year's event at Taunton & Pickering, and the course (and club house) was in super condition. It was brilliant

to have a great number attend and even better that we had 10 or so turn out for the course walk. Jeff, many thanks to you for giving us the opportunity of the course walk and also to you and your guys for presenting a wonderful golf course!!

Now for the winners, in third place Paul Garland, Lansdown, with 36pts. In second place Richard Louisson, Cirencester, with 37pts and in first place Stuart Broom, Lyme Regis, with 38pts. Well done guys.

We all know that these last couple of weeks have been just a complete nightmare weather wise. Hard frosts and snow makes doing anything far from easy. For example, getting into your car on the way to work on a Wednesday morning..... as Chris Sealey recently found out. Chris started his day like any other winter's morning, opened the car, set the heating on full, de-iced the windscreen and then had his cup of coffee to help him start the day! To his surprise, when Chris went back to his car, the doors were locked, keys in the ignition and the engine still going....."OH DEAR" comes to mind. At least the full tank of diesel he had wasn't going to waste. After phoning to the AA, they weren't a great deal of help as the car was still sat on the driveway. Unfortunately there was no spare key either, the only thing left is to smash a window....."OH DEAR" comes to mind again!!! Chris did make it to work that morning, everyone who saw the window had to ask the question, "What happened there Chris??" Fortunately a quick phone call to Auto Glass and the matter was solved.

While I write I have to tell you that I've just watched my first Cadburys cream egg advert, this wouldn't normally be a problem, however I do still have the Christmas tree in the corner, ummmm interesting.....

A quick plea to everyone, please make every effort to attend as many things as possible this year, both education and golf days, I for one look forward to seeing you all at some point during 2010. If you have any news/stories that you would like to share please do so. You all have my e-mail address and my phones always on. Look forward to hearing from you.

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



John Pemberton
Chief Executive

What a month January turned out to be - the worst period of snow and frost for many years and on the upside, arguably the best event in Harrogate that we have ever produced.

We came back after the Christmas break somewhat concerned that the weather would prevent a great many people from attending. As the snow disappeared, almost to order, the worry then was that time off work would not be allowed as greenkeepers and groundsmen attempted to get their facilities back into play. We need not have lost any sleep, demand for education was unprecedented and the visitors came in their thousands. Many exhibitors reported a record show and those who attended the Social Night were treated to an evening of fun, friendship and good food.

Thanks are due to Ransomes Jacobsen for its sponsorship of both the Social Night and the International Summit that took place earlier in the week. It was BIGGA's turn this year to host this annual event that brings together representatives from greenkeeping associations from around the world to discuss matters of common interest.

Sadly, not all trade companies played by the book and since the exhibition I have had reports of representatives doing business while walking about without being a bone fide exhibitor. Unfortunately I do not have any hard evidence of such rogue trading and would be interested to hear from any member who can substantiate these claims. I have a list of companies that are suspected of such dealings and rest assured they will be closely monitored if they turn up at Harrogate in 2011 and are not an exhibitor.

Plans are already under way for next year's Harrogate although at this stage we are lead to believe that the large machinery manufactures will not be in attendance. It's a great pity because with a change to how they spend their budget they could all make a valuable contribution towards the week's success and raise their own profile at the same time.

As we move into 2010 then the sights at BIGGA HOUSE are clearly set on three main areas: (1) Developing the value of being a member, (2) increasing the provision and take-up of education and (3) improving the positioning of the Association in the sports turf industry. The coming year will present many challenges and although the country has been declared as officially having come out of recession nevertheless it will take some time for this to filter through into the sports and leisure industry. Will the golf industry in particular ever be the same again? I, and many others, think not however the Board and Staff will be looking to the future and will make every effort to meet members' needs while working in close partnership with other allied bodies to develop the Association.

Finally, I would like to wish Neil Hayward, of the English Golf Union, a long and happy retirement. Neil retires after many years of serving the golf industry having specialised of late in giving advice on aspects of child protection as applicable to golf clubs. Good Luck Neil and I look forward to meeting up with you on a golf course somewhere.

South East Region



Kent

It would be very easy to theme this month's column around the recent weather issues being experienced by one and all. However, I shall resist the temptation as I'm sure none of you need reminding how cold and bleak conditions have been of late. I always find that this time of year is ideal for developing teams. Much of the work being carried out during cold snaps is done with multiple numbers of staff and encouraging team relationships during these periods is ideal for staff bonding and trust which, in turn, pays dividends by helping to ensure the playing quality and condition of the course in future months. Morale in teams can be quite low at these times of year so I think it is important to, where practical, encourage as much staff interaction as possible to get us through the winter months.

Individual appraisals and team meetings are also often enlightening experiences for managers and staff alike. And all educational opportunities should be exploited to the max until the frozen tundra starts to defrost itself. Staff development is something many of us struggle to find time for when the season is in full swing so it is important to make the most of quieter times of the year when more attention can be given to each individual.

One person who won't be worrying too much about the freezing conditions of late is Andrew Wood, of Avoncrop Amenity. "Why ever not?", I hear you ask. Well, the reason is simple. Andrew has bravely entered into the inaugural Brighton Marathon in April and is, therefore, constantly pounding the streets in serious preparation for the big event. Andrew is raising money and awareness for "WaterAid" who concern themselves with drought issues worldwide. Please go to our website for more details on Andrew's progress and the charity and there is also a link to a sponsorship page if you feel so inclined.

Our first event of the year still

seems an age away but, by the time you read this, will only be a month away. Yes folks, it's time for our springtime National Qualifier at Prince's Golf Club. March 10, is the date for one of the most eagerly anticipated events in our Section's recent history. Please make sure you confirm your attendance early for what promises to be a very popular day and a fantastic start to our year of events.

I would like to sign off by thanking the sponsors who have already pledged allegiance to the Kent Section for the coming year. They being:

Grass Roots Trading, MAB Groundscare and Scotts UK.

Meantime keep those thermals on and your tree prunings burning.

Best of British

Rob Holland

07843 410755

www.kentgreenkeepers.com



London

Hello to all,

As I sit in my office writing this month's 'Around the Green' I'm looking out over the golf course and it's still covered in snow, it is still January. Don't think we are in our own climate! We have been shut for what feels like weeks! It has only been one week but it feels like longer. At first the excitement of the snow and having a snowball fight with the lads was great but now I just want to get on with things. The sheds are sparking, the machines all serviced, greased and the car park has been cleared of snow again. At least we will never run out of tree work at Muswell Hill G.C. Enough of my ramblings.

Like I informed you last month the Turkey Trot was played at Sandy Lodge GC, in December, but I had no results to share with you, so here it goes. The course was in great condition as normal. There was a lot of work being carried out around the course in preparation for there centenary this year and it all looked very impressive. I would like to thank Rob Phillips and his team for all their hard work it what had been a difficult time. The course just keeps improving every time I go back. I would also

like to thank the catering and bar staff who kept us fed and watered superbly.

The results were:- 1. Sandy Lodge, (Sam Stabler, Simon Walley, Stuart Playle, Pat Johnson) 57pts; 2. Ealing, (Greg Evans, Warren Clements, Stan Harrison, Jack Sims), 56pts; 3. Robbed on countback. Muswell Hill (Kevin O'Neill, Martin Gaffney, Jack Hockings), 56pts

Longest drive: Simon Grand, Hadley Wood with a 350 yard drive down the snow!

A special word of congratulations for Peter Phillips who had a hole-in-one at the 8th which was also the nearest the pin hole! Peter then bought a large bottle of whisky to warm us up and share the moment with him.

Education – The 3 P's- Progress, Peril and Presentation, on Feb 18.

Andy Wight, from Oakland's College, has organised a great day for the London section. To be held at Oakland's College. See Diary of Events (next page) for details.

Seminar Programme

10.00am – 10.30pm: Arrival and Welcome. Greg Evans (Course Manager Ealing GC) will give an overview of greenkeeping practices at Ealing GC. Dr. Ruth Mann, STRI, 'Disease Update'. 12.30pm – 1.30pm: Lunch

Jane Leyland, UK Research and Development Manager Barenbrug UK Ltd. Frank Newberry, Golden Key Sponsor, 'How to be a Powerful Persuader'

Cost: £10 (inc VAT). Cost includes all course materials and lunch.

To book your place contact andy.wight@oaklands.ac.uk or call 01727 737735

2010 Fixtures: The Spring tournament, May 20, at Ealing GC I know we have had the 2mm or above debate at Harrogate last month. This is your chance to see what Greg Evans has been doing with his greens! Also this is the National qualifier. The first and second place winners will get their expenses paid trip to the National Championship, which this year is at The Berkshire.

The Summer Tournament will be held on July 21, at Muswell Hill Golf Club. This will give you chance to look how we have changed the course after the fire in 2007. We will have a BBQ after the golf with golf dress welcome all day, so need for your shirt and tie!

The Turkey Trot will be held at Wyke Green Golf Club in December. This should be another great day and hopefully Tony won't get the rain he had hosting his last BIGGA day!

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.

Matt Pledsted

07818410333



Essex

As you will all be aware we have not had anything on over the past month or so, so on that front I have nothing to report.

Your new committee had its first meeting on January 14 at Regiment Way, so by the time you read this we will have made some plans for the season ahead.

We will have put yet another Harrogate Week under our belts and for those of you that attended I'm sure you all got a lot out of it.

Though while I write this article, the snow is falling quite heavily and with weather reports, that it's here for some time. I for one am wondering if I'm going to be able to make the trip, which will be the first time I have missed the week for many a year.

I am in the process of writing and working on a new website. I know the old saying, "of if it's not broken don't repair it", but after a year of the site, I feel its looking a bit stale, so I have spent the Christmas period looking and thinking of at new ideas for the site. A more user-friendly approach is what I have come up with.

So you may have found that we have been off line for a few days, or that the site is under construction during February, don't worry we will be back in time for the new season.

More news next month plus a report from the committee meeting and the venues and dates for this seasons golf matches.

If you have any news for this magazine or the website please contact me by email:

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