

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



East

Before I start my report I'm saddened to hear of the passing of Norman Wood Head Greenkeeper of Haddington GC East Lothian. He will be sadly missed by all. Our thoughts go to Norman's family in sad times like this.

Well, the golfing season is almost over and the winter work begins on the golf courses for the next season. The golf seasons are going quicker every year for me.

Budgets are at a low for winter programmes but we can look for work that will not cost much money, just hard work. We all need to look at what will keep our green staff busy this winter. Tree work renovating bunkers and pathways etc..., refurbishing and repairs that can be done in-house. If we look hard I'm sure we can find work.

We have just moved into our new greenkeeping premises. It's only taken about 10 years to get what we wanted, but we got there eventually. Perseverance and patience has paid of in the end. (Never give up).

Our Section Autumn golf outing to Liberton GC on Thursday, September 23 was a wash out. The rain just kept on and on and on.....The Course Manager, Ronnie McCrindle, and his green staff tried in vain to keep the course playable for the greenkeepers.

Lead by our Chairman who started off the proceedings followed by our Secretary in the next group of mad golfers, but the weather had the last say and the golf was a none starter. When they got dried off and the Chair-

man managed to find his way to the dining room, after giving the resident "Big Spider" the slip..... he said that was chasing him all over the Liberton clubhouse.

We sat down earlier than usual for our evening meal, thanks to the catering staff for adjusting their timetable.

Our Chairman thanked Liberton GC and all who attended the day along with the trade who donated some nice prizes for our raffle. Peter Boyd, our Regional Administrator gave a brief talk on what is happening in and around the Sections.

The patrons award winners are Scott Corrigan, Greenburn GC and George Oliver, Murrayfield GC. Congratulations guys. We look forward to reading your thoughts of the Harrogate trip..... Enjoy. They will both be presented with their awards at our AGM on November 2 at Kingsfield GC, Linlithgow. We hope to see a good turn out there, it's certainly well worth the visit.

The golf format for "The Jimmy Neilson Trophy" is Stableford, and there is no cost for members of BIGGA. Our sponsors for the day are Hendersons Grass Machinery, from Haddington. A thank you to Graham Miller and Jim Davidson, from Henderson's for the sponsorship of East Section BIGGA AGM.

Our winter and spring programme for the East Section is still being put together and members will be notified of dates and venues for these events soon.

Already we have dates and venues for our golf in 2011. Our Secretary, Stuart Ferguson, has been very busy with this.

Well done, a brilliant Ryder Cup. And a big well Done to all the green staff who were involved at Celtic Manor Ryder Cup. A monumental task in keeping the course playable as possible under extreme weather conditions.

Well done to all involved. You

did greenkeeping proud guys.

Until next Month

Tom Murray (07709960163)



Ayrshire

Hi all. Hope you all well and things are going as planned for the winter ahead. Here's hoping it's not as bad as last year!

Some of you may have heard through the grape vine that I have moved on from my post as Head Greenkeeper at The Dumfriesshire Golf Centre. Well that news is correct.

An opportunity arose for me to go back to Ayrshire and that pull was far to strong for me to turn down. I will be working for a company in Prestwick called Pro Lawn, Out with the greenkeeping world but working in the domestic market. I would like to take this chance to thank all at The Dumfriesshire Golf Centre for the opportunity that was given to me, I really enjoyed my time there and wish everyone involved all the best for the future.

A little bundle of joy was born into the Grant family back on July 9 this year. Baby girl, Tully Amelia. Euan Grant and his wife have their hands full now with that their fourth child! I know Euan is more a rugby man, but you're only one off a 5-a-side football team now. From all of us in the Section we wish you all well for the future.

On Friday, September 24, Ayrshire hosted the annual match against the North Down Greenkeepers. The venue was Prestwick St Nicholas, where as always the course was in excellent condition, praise and thanks to John McLaughlin and his staff. Also thanks to everyone at the clubhouse for looking after us so well. Lastly a

big thank you to the committee and members allowing us the privilege of playing their course.

Onto the match and unfortunately despite home advantage and the fact our opponents don't play much links golf, Ayrshire lost the match 3.5 to 1.5. The sole point coming in the last game, which was in fact an Irish/Scots combination. I would like to take some of the credit but it was James who played a blinder and I'm sure he got some serious stick for the rest of the weekend.

The match whether home or away is always something to anticipate after a long hard golfing season and we look forward to trying to get our hands on the trophy next year, which if can be organised may take on a European flavour by playing at Denis's course in Germany, I'll keep you posted. George Morrison, Largs Golf Club.

A huge thank you to George for submitting the report on the Irish match. Oh and well done to the Irish boys!

Next month's mag will have the results of the autumn outing which was held and Dumfries & Galloway Golf Club. As usual I ask for your continued help in keeping me in the loop of any news coming up or anything that's already happened in our Section. Let's use this as an opportunity!

I see some of the other Sections have a facebook site set up, was wondering if that may interest any of you social networkers out there? Let me know and we can look into it further.

Thanks guys, I look forward to hearing from you.

John Mair

Johnmair982@hotmail.co.uk
07500874449



Central

The great Scottish summer continues, not only did we have to cancel the autumn golf meeting at Downfield once, but we have to cancel the re-arranged day as well because of torrential rain on both days (at least 1.25mm I heard) leaving the golf course flooded. By the time you read this, it will have hopefully been play as it was re-scheduled for October 13 (if it's not snowing) and will be followed by the Section AGM.

All the winners and details of the meeting should be on the website by now www.bigga-centralsection.org.uk

Congratulations to Innes Knight, Sandy Reid and Gordon McKie for a successful Alfred Dunhill Links Championship and also to Jim McKenzie and his team for producing a course in great shape for the Ryder Cup under near impossible conditions.

Gordon Moir



North

Hopefully the weather this month isn't that severe that your courses are struggling to open. The Ryder Cup has been and gone and unfortunately the weather wreaked havoc with the course over the duration of the competition. The Europeans won in the end and in Monty's closing speech he gave a 'big up' for the 110 greenkeepers who were working on the course. 110? Imagine what your courses would look like if you had 110 greenies working for you. The guys working there showed great determination to get the event played. Well done to all those down at Celtic Manor, Bring on Gleneagles in 2014!

A similar occurrence happened to us at our annual Autumn outing at Huntly in September. The heavens opened a couple of days prior to the event which didn't do the course any good at all. But full credit to Ross Macrae and Dennis Grant, - the only two greenkeepers who work there - who managed to get the course open for play on the

Thursday. What a great turn out for the North Section. We had nearly 50 playing members turn up for the outing, a record for the Autumn jolly!

The results are as follows:

Nearest the Pin Winners. Ben Brookes, Simon Hoy and Paul Sharp

Sweep Winners. David Middleton, Stuart Clayton, Ewan Little, Bill Harvey

Guest Winner. Bill Harvey, Vice Captain, Huntly GC, Trade: Stuart Clayton, Scotlube.

Committee Winner. Robert Patterson. Veterans: Brian Cocker and Brian Hunter

Apprentice Trophy. Ewan Little

Class 3, 1. Dale Robertson; 2. Mark Angus; 3. John Geddes

Class 2, 1. David Middleton; 2. Paul Sharp 3. Greg Paterson

Class 1, 1. Derek Green; 2. Richard Sharp; 3. Robert Paterson

Scratch, 1. Dennis Grant; 2. Gary Tough

David Middleton won the Mark Main Memorial Trophy. This was decided over the two outings of the year and David had the best total of his nett scores. A combined total of 135 won it. Well done you bandit! The 200 Club was also drawn and the results are as follows:

£30 winners - Jo O'Neill, Stewart McBain, Diane Johnston £100 winner was Bradley Wood. Incidentally, his ticket was picked out by his boss, Dougal Duguid, who in turn proceeded to clear the bandit out of £260. So all in all it was a good day for the boys from Westhill.

Paul Sharp, from Peterculter GC, was chuffed with himself because he hit a fairway! Hughie McLatchie had a minus three inch drive. Nevermind. Brian Hunter, 13 at one hole, but he didn't NR! When I won the Nearest the Hole I didn't tell you I three putted from four feet awesome golf and to top the day off everyone commented on the new form of disease that was found on the 15th green! A new type of take all has been found. This is called Take All Apron. When someone cuts into the apron while they are cutting the greens. Step forward George Mitchell who was in helping out his mate, Ross. Some mate you are George, cutting into your pal's apron! I said I would put it in although I nearly forgot! All in all it was a good day and our AGM this year was at Oldmeldrum on October 21, so there isn't any news in this issue.

Finally, this month someone

on the move. Josh Lester who has been Patrick Wood's Deputy on Swailend, Newmachar. Has recently got the Head Greenkeepers job at Longside. Well done Josh and the staff at Newmachar I'm sure will miss you!

Not a lot else to report this month. Sorry. If anyone does have any info, let me know on 07813889374 or on internet benbrookes@yahoo.co.uk

Ben Brookes
Murcar Links

Northern



North Wales

Winter is well and truly here, with Halloween gone and bonfire night on our doorstep. I have heard the long range weather forecasters have predicted another hard winter to come, so perhaps this year we should live up to the old standard that our building work should be put to bed before the Christmas break.

I have to put right an oversight in a previous column; I forgot to thank Jason Moody, and Amenity Technology, for sponsoring the North Wales/North West grudge match, oh sorry! I meant golf day, thank you for your support.

The Northern Region Inter Section tournament took place at the Vale of Llangollen golf club on September 22 with all six Sections entering a team and with a competitive field taking to the course on a lovely day for golf the results came in as so: 1. Sheffield Section, 108 pts; 2. North Wales, (a creditable) 104 pts; 3. North East, 97 pts; 4th Northern, 93 pts; 5. North West, 87 pts, and finally Cleveland, 85 pts.

We have to thank Jeremy Hughes and team for presenting a course that was praised by all the competitors, the catering/bar staff for their hearty food and hospitality and also Andy Law, and Whitemoss, for sponsoring the day. Thank you all very much.

We've been busy because we also held the Autumn Tournament at Mold GC on September 30 and with 50 attendees, 48 of whom were playing on what seemed like the only dry day of

that week, it was as always on our tournaments, a great day's golf. The format for the day was a better ball Stableford and the results where: 1. Carl Crocher and John Mooney, 43 pts; 2. Stuart Yarwood and Ian Quirk, 42 pts; 3. Simon Whitley and Paul Stanley, 41 ps and finally, 4. 40 pts where Callum Roberts and Kevin Muldoon. Nearest the Pin went to Jason Moody and John Mooney. We have to thank Colin Jones and team for the beautifully presented course; all the players rated the course very highly, also a big thank you has to go to the bar/catering staff who were very friendly and efficient. Thank you, your patience and hospitality shone on our day.

The Christmas Tournament and AGM is now close; the venue for this year's tournament is Mile End GC and courses near the border always prove popular.

Jez Hughes will now be taking tee time bookings remember to book early, as the Christmas golf day always fills up quickly.

All the best until next month,
Pete Maybury petemayb66@aol.com 07756001187



Northern

Hello everyone hope you are all well. Having spent a week in sunny Majorca, it was nice to come back to the monsoon season. On September 29 we held our Autumn Tournament at Bradford GC. The Section would like to thank the committee for granting courtesy of the course, and the staff for looking after us so well. A special thanks go to Dave and his team for presenting such a good course on a horrible day. The results for the day were: Div 1. 1. A. Baxter; 2. T. Gerrard; 3. N. Coultish. Div 2. 1. A. Holroyde; 2. N. Booth; 3. R. Smith. Div 3. 1. E. Newsham; 2. J. Baxter; 3. K. Christie. The Trade Prize went to our sponsor's Scotts own Ed Carter. Nearest the Pins, 3rd. R. Pull, 12th. F. Stewart. Our thanks go to everyone for taking part. The Section also held the AGM at Bradford G.C. which was attended by 24 greenkeeper members. The committee was re-elected to serve another year.

On the news front congratulations to Bradford G.C. Head

Around The Green

Greenkeeper, D. Thackeray, on being presented with a memento for 25 years' service. Our best wishes go to Dave and his wife on the birth of their baby, which was due on the 29th - our golf day. Christmas golf this year is to be held at Halifax GC, Ogden on December 8. First tee 10am. So please book early for the golf and Christmas dinner. As usual any news or gossip please get in touch Frank Stewart, 72 West Park Grove, Roundhay, LS8 2DY. Tel. 07947401278, email: frankstewart3@hotmail.co.uk.

Hope to see you all at Christmas.

Frank Stewart



North East

Well we have had a great start to the autumn. Nothing but rain then more rain. Thought there couldn't be any more up there to spoil our day for the autumn comp, but I was wrong.

I woke up on October 6 thought "Hey no rain! Great start to the day. But alas that was only for a short time what a day we are going to have. Well that was confirmed when I got a phone call from Tommy Harrison saying that the course is flooded could I get in touch with everyone telling them not to bother as we'd be on temporary greens on most of the course. Sorry Tommy I said, I couldn't do that because we never know who will turn up on the day.

So off we went down to Gosforth GC hoping that the weather would change and it certainly did, yes we played on about 11 winter greens and seven normal ones but unfortunately only the usual number turned up, being a paltry eight people, but credit must go to the Head Greenkeeper, Tommy Harrison and his staff, for getting the course even open. Thanks lads, because I honestly didn't know when we would be able to play another day. That's never happened before. All I can say is that we have been very lucky in the past.

Now getting to the scores; Best Nett Ransomes Cup R. Reid, 8, best gross J. Gibson, Northumberland GC, 73. Greenlay Cup G. Brown, Wooler GC, 69, Ransomes Shield S.R.

Pope, Tyneside GC, J. Storey, Alnmouth GC, 72 nett, J/S. Richardson, Hexham GC, 72 nett J. Moutrie, Hexham GC, 75 nett and G. Batson, Alnmouth GC, had a NR.

I would like to thank TSL, Allan Morton], and Rigby Taylor, Glen Baxter, for their prizes for not only this competition, but the Spring one as well and, of course, the golf club giving us the courtesy and not forgetting the caterers, because that was some meal.

Jimmy Richardson



Sheffield

Hello all, I hope you are all keeping well.

I'm sure that the few who attended our Autumn competition at Silkstone GC had a fantastic day. I would like to thank Mick and his staff for having us and producing a fantastic course for us to grace. I would also like to thank Glenn Sawyer, from Golf and Turf Machinery, for sponsoring the day. The results are as follows:

1. S. Pickering, 39 pts - congratulations Steve; 2. S. Pigott, 36 pts - They must be getting some golf in at Grange Park; 3rd A. Whittington 36 pts; Trade. R. Latham 38 pts.

Congratulations to all our winners and all those who attended.

Having completed our three main competitions we had three winners that we could put forward for the Inter Region Competition which this year was held at Llangollen GC. Our three winners were T. Strong, M. Holden and S. Pigott (Steve couldn't make it on the day). I am more pleased to inform you that did our team not only make the long trip but they came back winners. Well done, lads.

I'm sure by the time you all read this article you will have been given details on our first lecture and I will have announced our second one for later in the Winter, as I keep saying if anyone has any ideas or there is anything they would like to do then let me know and it can be considered. I hope to see many of you at our Lectures.

We have recently purchased a

new Section laptop and printer. It was decided that we needed a more up to date laptop which gave us more scope for moving things forward. The old laptop has been handed on to the Competition Secretary.

Finally I would like to congratulate Andy Riley on his recent hole-in-one at Wortley GC. Sources have said that it was the most awesome shot they had ever seen. When news of this spread my phone was inundated with calls from Monty asking who this guy was and if he was available for an upcoming competition he was involved in. Unfortunately Andy's club wouldn't allow him the time off and the rest is history as they say.

On that note I will leave you and we will catch up again in December

James Stevens
Section Secretary

Midland



East Midland

Hello all

Well what do I write about this month? I know, worms! Yes we all get them and don't they make a mess? Did you realise that the average worm will..... Don't be silly, I'm not going to talk about worms! Firstly though and, if you haven't already found out, congratulations to Paul Frith, of Birstall GC, with rounds of 72 and 71, our Cat 1 representative is now BIGGA National Champ. He takes over the crown from Derek McJannet, so next year we need to make it three in a row for the East Midlands Section!

As for the other representative, let's just say that I had a 75 in round one and the thought of being in contention led to a England cricket style mid order collapse, (mainly through holes 6,7,8 and 9) where approximately 28 shots were run up!

The Headland Pairs is into the final stages. This year's final is to be contested by Paul Frith and partner Nigel Colley, against Ian Hurst and Paul Kendal, results hopefully in the next update. Hopefully you will all have seen Greg Skinner's efforts to organise an excavator training

day. The info is on the education pages on the website, this course is a great opportunity to brush up skills and gain an award of competency which will settle the nerves of committees and insurance men alike. We hope you will be able to come along.

Not much personal news from the Section. However, I am hearing from further away that there are some terrible stories of Course Managers and staff being made redundant due to the ongoing tightening of spending, which is having a knock on effect with people's club memberships etc.

I can only see the situation getting worse before it gets better and as we move into winter I wish all of you the best and hope that we are able to work with our clubs to find solutions, and with each other to help ourselves through any difficult times that arise.

Kind regards
Pete Smith



Midland

Well here we are yet again trying to compile this month's notes with nothing more than the thanks to our sponsors and promotion of golfing events. Nothing new there then!

This month's kind sponsor of the calendar page are our new friends Turfmech, based in Staffordshire. They can be contacted on: 01889 271 503, for all your machinery requirements. I must admit that the sweeper featured at Pyle & Kenfig GC in the calendar picture is doing a fine job, and, of course, the chaps being very industrious.

Don't forget to get your entries in for the Christmas event. Cost £33, full English Breakfast, 18 holes around Woburn no less, and a three course meal, with a main prize table as sponsored by Tacit. Come on what more do you want! Don't forget we also run a "Bring a prize and take a prize" for all. It is Christmas after all. Please make sure that your prize is to the value of £7 or above.

If you want more give me more!

Sean McDade

South East



Kent

Every two years an event occurs which is of such mind-blowing magnitude that its reverberations are felt for long afterwards by all who were privileged enough to witness it. While I appreciate my wife's recent endeavours I am, of course, talking about the Celtic Manor Ryder Cup.

Ever since some infamous US staged events where a slightly over-exuberant, highly partisan crowd took the gloss off what should be the greatest showpiece the sport we know, love and strive for, there is always a certain amount of trepidation as to how the home crowd would try to influence the game in front of them.

Fortunately, at Celtic Manor, the crowd were the perfect accompaniment to a feast of glorious golf. Even the typical Welsh weather couldn't dampen the spirits of the assembled (or the viewers watching patiently at home as Cliff Richard wasn't invited). And wave after wave of rainstorm seemed to take the organisers by surprise and threaten to wreak havoc with the event and the course. The players were all imperious, however, and even though the US players hadn't done their research on the weather they should expect at that time of year and had to send out for heavy duty rainwear, the rain didn't dampen their supreme ardor.

From the start the players mesmerised the galleries with their talent. I suppose one of the few surprises was that the numbers one and two in the world were outplayed not only by the European combatants but also their superb rookie colleagues who seemed to thrive in the team event.

In the end, what a finish! After four days of ebb and flow on the scoreboard to all come down to the final game played between two great players was something that just could never be scripted. The Europeans emerging victorious

amid scenes of genuine, joyous celebrations.

One shining star of the event was of course the Celtic Manor 2010 Resort. Superbly presented for the spectacle and, despite the constant rain, the main playing surfaces never relinquished their perfect finishes to the storms that swamped them. Well done to Jim McKenzie and all involved in the preparations for the tournament.

Nearly as high profile was our most recent outing to another of Kent's fine courses on our late summer golf day. The venue and the prospect of playing with Kent's finest had attracted guests from Sussex and Surrey. They helped contribute to a great turn out at Duncan Kelso's immaculate King's Hill Golf Course. Even the weather was on our side as this usually windy location had decided to have one of its few benign days. Vic Maynard, of Ernest Doe, made a very welcome return with his refreshments and saw the players off at the first with a drink and a smile to start the round off. Kev and I were joined on our round by the undeniable golfing talents of Darren Burton, of North Foreland. Despite threatening to bring him down to our level pretty much all the way round, he gave us a sound education into how the game should be played. Well done mate.

As I said, a great course and great company as ever. Thanks to Barry Bradshaw and the greenkeeping team on a job well done and to the caterers for the meal.

Results as follows: 1. Tim Maynard, Wildernesne, 39 pts; 2. Darren Burton, North Foreland, 37 pts; 3. Gary Branchett, Tenterden, 37 pts. Nearest the Pin was won by Mark Roach and Longest Drive by Ben Smith.

Many thanks to Brian Willmott, and Tacit, for donating prizes on the day.

Lastly, don't forget November 25 is the date for the highlight of the year. Yes, it's the Turkey Trot time again to be staged at Birchwood Park. Previous attendees know how much fun we have at this event and this year should be no different. Please see web page for times, current handicaps and all other relevant information. As ever, this event shall include

our AGM. We aim to start the meeting after the meal which will be about 6.30pm. If you have any issues you would like discussed or would like to stand for any official position on the committee please let us know so we can add any such matters to the agenda.

Hope to see as many of you as possible on the day.

Best of British

Rob Holland

www.kentgreenkeepers.com



Surrey

Friday October 1. The Surrey Bowl Final, played at Foxhills GC on September 28 was a terrific match between two quality golfing teams. Jason Hunt and Tom Relf were up against Kevin Boxall and Phil Rowlands and after eight holes the score was all square. The teams had 12 gross birdies between them with the match being decided on the 16th green. Jason and Tom were victorious and were presented with the prize money and cup by Richard Faulkner, of ETT, who sponsored the whole event.

Many thanks to them and they have agreed to continue sponsorship next year. The Surrey committee would like to thank Dave Wyborn and Foxhills GC for allowing us to use their excellent golf course.

While the above teams were playing their first nine holes, I partnered Richard on the nine hole par 3 course against Roger Tydeman and John Ross. Richard, a PGA professional, helped me on some holes, eight holes comes to mind, but my birdie on the 9th put the final nail in our opponents' coffin and victory was ours.

I know I may have disappointed many of you by cutting short details of my holiday in Guernsey in last month's edition but hopefully news of my holiday in the Isle of Wight during September will compensate. The weather was excellent, I wore shorts and we walked the coastal paths, the other part of the we being 'her indoors'. We played crazy golf, ate, drank and cruised home on the Wight ferry.

Ten young assistant green-

Assistant Profile

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

With a reputation for following indie rock'n'roll bands such as The Killers and Kasabian, it may be a surprise to some that his claim to fame is actually appearing in a magazine called ...Greenkeeper International!

Name:
Daniel Simpson
Age:
24
Club:
Rockcliffe Hall
Position:
Qualified Assistant



- 1. How long have you been greenkeeping?**
Five and a half years
- 2. What was it about the career that attracted you?**
Involved in golf and working outside
- 3. If you weren't a greenkeeper what do you think you'd be?**
Teaching professional golf
- 4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?**
Hand cutting greens to give a great aesthetic value.
- 5. Which task do you least enjoy doing and why?**
Divoting and sowing fairways as I'm useless at it!
- 6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot?**
A promotion
- 7. Hobbies?** Playing golf
- 8. Favourite Band?**
Kings of Leon, The Killers, Kasabian and The Beatles
- 9. Which team do you support (football or otherwise)?**
Newcastle United
- 10. What is your claim to fame?** Appearing in Greenkeeper International!

keepers from various Surrey golf clubs have taken advantage of a seminar arranged by this Section on October 6 at Surrey Downs. Many thanks to Gavin Kyle, who in conjunction with Nigel Church and William Carr have arranged the seminar to include machinery pre-start checks and basic setting up of cutting units. The attending greenkeepers will receive CPD points for participating.

Paul (Grandad) Weston phoned to inform me that his son, Michael, Course Manager at Omeda GC and partner, Lisa, took delivery of their new son, Jaden,, 6lbs. 2 oz. on September 17. Congratulations also to Elain Kelly, ex assistant greenkeeper to her father, Robin Smith, at Limpsfield Chart GC and Elain's husband, Rupert, on the birth of their first son, Flynn Seth 8 lbs. 9 oz., on August 6.

Welcome to Surrey to Mark Hastry, Heworth GC, who has taken over from Roger Tydeman as Course Manager at Croham Hurst GC. Also we welcome Ben Edwards, now Course Manager at West Hill GC. Ben, who takes over from Ian Morrison, was Course Manager, at Sandmartins GC.

Please remember that our AGM takes place after the Turkey Trot at Guildford GC on December 7.

Brian Willmott



Essex

What a busy month we've had the IOG Saltex Show, our Autumn Trophy meeting at Benton Hall G&CC, and the National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse at The Berkshire, all attended by at least some of our Section.

The Autumn Trophy

Here we go again for the fourth Essex BIGGA Golf Day of the year, with a strong field of 40 at Benton Hall G&CC.

After much uncertainty about the day's forecast, we were blessed with a dry and calm day (apart from the early holes), near perfect conditions for a golf and that was confirmed with some fantastic scoring! The overall winner of the Autumn Trophy and entry to the 2011 National

Championship with an outrageous score of 47 pts was Steve Cousins, from Orsett GC, a fine round of golf that even included a blob!

Moving on with the other prizes for the day, Cat 2. 1. Malcolm Smith, Channels, 41pts; 2. Mark Stopps, Bentley, 39pts; 3. Sam Cook, Colchester, 36pts. Cat 1. 1. Richard Dunmow, Channels, 39pts; 2. Andy Cracknell, Orsett, 36pts, 3. Antony Kirwan, Lexden Wood, 34pts. Trade Winner. Mark Keysall, Rigby Taylor. 30pts Guest. Steve Crosdale, 39pts.

Nearest the Pin on the 6th was won also by Steve Crosdale and the 16th was won by Sam Cook, from Colchester GC.

It was a great day, and everyone enjoyed themselves, a massive thanks for Benton Hall for allowing us to use their facility. Also a massive thanks to Adrian Mountain, and his greenkeeping team, for a well prepared and presented golf course. And, last but by no means least, a big thanks must go out to their bar and kitchen staff for looking after us so well.

The BIGGA National Championship at The Berkshire, was attended by the following: Stuart Rogers, Barry Mann, Andy Cracknell, Tom Bownes, Antony Kirwan, Steve Cousins, Dougie Fernie, and Ben Scrivener. I understand that Antony Kirwan was in the prizes on the first day winning his category and also a trophy, and Stuart Rogers won his category on the second day. Well done to all the guys and I hope they enjoyed the experience.

The Essex Section AGM and Team Golf Event meeting is on Thursday, December 2 at The Essex Golf & Country Club, entries close on November 30, no late entries will be excepted. Two BIGGA Section members in a team of four please, individual entries will be teamed up. Cost per team, £65 = £17.50 each.

The following positions on the committee are due for renewal.

Chairman, plus an Education Officer (due to the resignation of Paul O'Kane). The Committee wish to thank Paul for all the hard work he has put in on the Section's behalf over the past couple of years.

Nominations for the position of Chairman and Education officer should be with our Chairman Mark Stopps at mark@bentleygolfclub.com no

later than Monday, November 15 please.

If you have any news for the website or for GI please contact me on 07764-862.337 or via e-mail essexbigga@talktalk.net

Arnold Phipps-Jones
Press Officer

South West and South Wales



Devon and Cornwall

Hello all,

On Wednesday, October 6 the Section held its AGM at Stover GC. The day began with the obligatory bacon butties, followed by Golf or a Course Walk, lunch and then the meeting. The day was attended by 36 members and guests, which considering the time of year, was a strong attendance.

Jason Hampton, Course Manager, lead the course walk on this highly regarded, 18 hole members golf club. Both golfers and course walkers enjoyed bright sunshine on what was a glorious day. The golf format for the day was individual Stableford playing for the "Don Hunt" Trophy. Don worked in the industry for many years and was a strong supporter of BIGGA. He even took on the mantle of Section Administrator when it proved difficult to find a member to fill the role. It was a fitting day to remember Don. Prizes for the day were sponsored by Avoncrop Amenity and WBB Minerals. Many thanks to John Palfrey for organising and presenting the prizes and thanks for the sponsors continuing support of the Section. Ricky Worral, Dartmouth GC, took the first prize with a score of 38pts; Ashley Millar, Churston GC, was second with 34pts and third was Gary Tuckett with 34pts. Nearest the Pin prize went to Ashley Millar and the Longest Drive to Gary Tuckett.

The AGM went well with a few changes to the Committee. Rob Guntrip, DGM, stands down as President and Jerry Cole, Greenways, too, both as trade members. Two new trade members coming on to the committee will be Lee Kirk, MST, and Steve

Dommett, DGM. Many thanks to both Rob and Jerry for all there dedicated hard work and support whilst on committee. Tim Wakeham, Rigby Taylor, has been elected as President. Graeme Gallimore, Launceston, is also standing down and will be replaced by Mike Bush, St Mellion. Again, thanks to Graeme for all his hard work while on committee and in particular all the work he has put towards the education and training events organised by the Section. Steve Harris, Ashbury, now takes on the Treasurer duties. Thanks too to Jane Jones, our Regional Administrator, who attended and gave a report of progress within the Region and nationally. Many thanks to all the members who attended and supported the AGM.

It was another very successful event with many thanks to Jason and his team for presenting a wonderful course and to all the staff at Stover GC for their hospitality.

News from Duchy College.

Roger White, who has recently joined the Greenkeeping and Horticulture Team at Stoke, took new and old greenkeeper and horticultural students to IOG Saltex at Windsor. Not the usual "Induction Day to college life" that most new students will have experienced and it didn't rain!

Duchy College has recently struck an exciting deal with Toro and have obtained a Toro 5400D cutting machine on a free permanent loan basis. This piece of kit will help us dramatically to improve the quality of the sports pitches on site and can also be used by golf and green keeping students to demonstrate machinery operation and servicing. We would like to pass on our appreciation to Rob Guntrip, of Devon Garden Machinery, and John Pike, from Lely, for supporting the college and we look forward to building on the success of this relationship in the future, Joe Jones, Duchy Campus Manager, Jimmy Horrell, Workshop Manager, was also keen to thank DGM for the de-commissioned engines they supplied and the cutting units used to support the students. Thank you to Bill Pile and Steve Evans who over the years started the discussions and subsequent support from Toro and DGM, and the support below.

Dave Chamblings who com-

pleted his Level 2 and 3 Amenity Horticulture (SportsTurf) green-keeping qualifications through Duchy College has recently been appointed the Regional Representative for Sherriff Amenity and is responsible for the Devon, Cornwall and Somerset areas. Dave was a greenkeeper at Ashbury Hotel and Golf Club for eight years and then for one year at Exeter Golf and Country Club. While attending Duchy College Dave was sponsored by the Training Agency and the Devon and Cornwall BIGGA Section to attend Harrogate Week

Further Dave has recently become new father, so congratulations to him on many levels.

Ron Skinner

All future events are now posted on the website and listed in the GI magazine. Please contact me if there is any news you would like to be included in these "Around the greens" notes. I look forward to seeing you all at our meetings.

George Pitts

Section Secretary

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South Coast

Hi all,

As I write this the sun is shining again, the torrential rain that hindered the Ryder cup has moved away along with the spectators that turned the spectacular 2010 Course into a mud bath. My heart goes out to all who are involved in putting it right!

The South Coast Section played the annual match against the South West Section, at Sherbourne GC, which resulted in another resounding win for the South West, four games to one. Our only winners were Joe Cooper, playing with James Stewart, so well done to them. The course was in outstanding condition a credit to Chris Watson and his team. The greenkeeping standards were very high with all the work put in during late summer paying off handsomely. A pleasure indeed to play! Huxley Golf UK was our sponsor for the day, great to welcome them back into the Section. Memories go back

to some amazing days out at Arlesford GC when Huxley was manufacturing machines and put on demo/golf days. Long may the company's support continue.

The Section committee met at the end of September to discuss fixtures for next year along with subjects for our next seminar, which will be covered in a later issue. Golf fixtures are Liphook for the spring; Brokenhurst Manor in the summer and Waterlooville for the Autumn of 2011. Fixture cards will be printed in due course. Great venues, so plan to be there!

Here at Barton on the sunny south coast Autumn maintenance has dominated the work load over the last week or so. Usual picture, when you plan to Graden it rains, core and clear up, it rains, top dress, yes it rained and what happened when all the work was finally complete, the sun comes out with expected temperatures in the low 20's. Oh, how I love greenkeeping.

Next month it's over to Robert Hogarth who will give the results of the Autumn tournament from Broadstone. The next golfing fixture will be the Turkey trot here at Barton on December 13 where golf, raffle, wind, rain and freezing temperatures will all be on offer.

Tony Gadd.



South West

Well it's that time of year, the start of October.....what do we have to look forward to now. Many things if you think about it really. Halloween is just around the corner (thou I reckon some you are still dressed up from last year!)

But more importantly the Ryder Cup is with us at the moment, and from the looks of it the guys at Celtic Manor have done the most fantastic job ever. The course looks amazing. With around nine years in the making it all comes down this week's play. Everything is in order, the team are picked, the course is the most amazing condition and the spectators are driving their way through the gates.... All this to be ruined by the most awful weather this year. My God



John Pemberton
Chief Executive

By the time you read this it will be old news that I have given the Board six months notice of my intention to leave BIGGA. I have agreed with the Board that I will continue to give the Association my fullest attention until the end of April next year, during which time I will also help them with the recruitment process to find a suitable successor.

This has not been an easy decision to make, especially in the current economic climate when BIGGA is facing some serious challenges and I will use my experience and knowledge to assist the Board and the Staff in whatever way I can. I have no plans after April and will wait to see what opportunities arise in due course. I am not the sort of person to give up work altogether and will be looking for something to keep the grey matter ticking over, even if only on an ad hoc basis.

I first joined the Association in March 1993 as its Accountant, moving up to take the reins as Chief Executive in March 2004. I have enjoyed many years of helping BIGGA grow into an organisation that is widely respected in the golf industry as well as breaking new ground into sports turf management generally. Greenkeeping as a career, and greenkeepers as professionals, have come a long way, even in my relatively short experience of the industry. I think that a great many people, both members and non-members, often overlook this.

BIGGA exists to bring together like-minded people who share a common vocation and to help them maximise their potential through education. In raising individual standards of competency you raise the standard of the finished product, in our case the golf course or perhaps another form of sports turf surface. It's not unique and it is the fundamental principle behind a great number of professional associations.

However, like all such bodies, BIGGA needs a stable financial base and in the current climate this is where it runs into difficulty. The erratic attendance of exhibitors at Harrogate coupled with a decline in advertising over recent years brings its challenges and there is no doubt that the economy in golf is slowly worsening. Please don't get me wrong, BIGGA is not in dire financial trouble but it is being hit by the downturn in the economy and it is becoming increasingly difficult to deliver the expected standard of service.

I understand that research suggests that the number of rounds of golf being played has remained fairly consistent over recent years and its just that people are adopting an approach of pay-and-play rather than going down the membership route. With a drift away from club membership more and more bodies are looking at how they can address their own funding issues by having a greater financial contribution to the game by the golfer, especially the group so commonly dubbed as the 'Nomad' golfer. Saying it is easy; doing something about it is the difficult part!

John Pemberton
Chief Executive

didn't it ever rain on that Friday. I wish I could have gone myself - second thoughts I think I had a pretty great seat in my living room, and more importantly I was one of the dry ones! Picture this - Super Sunday, Chelsea v Arsenal and the Ryder Cup, using the split screen feature with sky Sports, arm chair reclined feet up, this really is a happy day in my house. With all the Singles having to go out on the Monday, and the score set the way it was, it really did having the makings of a great finish on it. Great job done by Monty and his team, but we all know who the real winning was. All the staff involved in preparing the course, and that's a fact!

After the impressive 6-0 victory Wayne's team had against the Welsh Section, the pressure was against him to take on the South Coast Section and come away with a similar result. This is when I was drafted into the team (he really was under pressure now.....). The Section travelled to Sherborne GC. For many of us this was a fair distance, a great credit to each one of us for making the time and effort! Back to the golf, South Coast were pretty fired up this year, having not won this match for a number of years. The course looked FANTASTIC, I felt I could have been Celtic Manor itself, and the views the course had to offer, well let's just say it was a very enjoyable walk (winning 5&4 helped a little mind you). The day got even better with an overall victory 4-1 - not a white wash this time, but still rather impressive. Wayne "Montgomery" Vincent has done it again, another unbeaten year. Guys, next year please offer your services to join in and play in a section match. It can be very difficult to find a team and not only that time consuming ringing around everyone, in 2011 pick up the phone and say "Wayne, I'll play for you this time".

Guys, we have dates that you might be interested in, Chainsaw course - 3-4 and 17-18, both in November. This is for four people to attend each. A brush cutting course is also available, a date will follow for this. Please contact myself to get yourself booked in. If you have anything else that you would like to do please get in contact and we can help arrange this, also funding could also be made possible.

Speak to you all soon, remember people your stories would also be welcome.

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



South Wales

Hi everyone! Sut Mae?

Wales, it is said, has over 600 castles, a legacy of when the Normans who, having beaten the English in one day in 1066, took a further 200 years to subdue the Welsh. These castles are now tourist attractions. Many lie in ruins, just like the intentions of those who did not want Wales to host the 2010 Ryder Cup.

Given the history of our proud nation, did they really think that we would not succeed?

The Celtic Manor literally moved mountains to host the event, and when the predicted bad weather turned up on the Friday and Sunday and was even worse than expected, the Green staff at The Celtic Manor, aided by over 70 volunteers from our Section, the South West, Devon and Cornwall and further afield, worked tirelessly to ensure that the competition was the complete success that it turned out to be.

Starting work at 5am and working 15 hour shifts, the Green staff worked extremely hard to remove surface water from the greens, draining, re-distributing sand and re-raking wet bunkers and spreading wood chip on spectator pathways.

Even this monumental effort though, could not stop the competition from moving into an unprecedented fourth day. But what a day!

Wonderful sunshine that set off the spectacular views of the Usk Valley and then a tremendous, nail biting finale, where Team Europe finally emerged victorious.

It is now the day after the event. I bought both the Daily Mirror and The Western Mail to see what take the press had on the event. There was no mention of the rain, only delight in the victory and praise for the Green staff and the course, both from the Europeans and

the Americans. In particular it was reported that Director Of Golf, Jim McKenzie hardly slept that weekend. I think it was for longer than that even!

Three things caught my eye in the Western Mail: Hero of the week: Course Director Jim McKenzie and his army of 110 Greenkeepers for saving the entire event.

Villain of the week: The US Tour for staging the Fed EX Cup the previous weekend, forcing this to be the latest ever Ryder Cup (Wales was bathed in sunshine on that weekend!) And finally Photo of the Week: Tiger Woods apparently eyeing up Katherine Jenkins on stage at the opening ceremony. You'll have to fight me for her, Tiger!

Anyway, a big "Well Done" to you Jim and your staff on behalf of the Section for producing a spectacular golf course under such difficult conditions and also could you thank Sir Terry Matthews on behalf of the Section for coming back to his birth place and making it all possible!

Also thank you to Steve Chappell, Section Secretary, for organising the small fleet of

caravans that were used as temporary accommodation for the volunteers over the weekend. A tremendous effort

Oh! I nearly forgot! Well done to Colin Montgomerie and his team for a stunning victory!

I know that I started this column with some patriotic comments, but that's the way I feel today.

Proud to be Welsh, proud of my friends in the Section for all their hard work and proud to have been a greenkeeper myself.

I tried to contact some of the guys today but many were in bed, unable to move! I am sure that when they recover they will look back with pride on an experience that they will never forget.

If you were a volunteer at the 2010 Ryder Cup and wish to relay your (printable) experiences via this column then feel free to contact me on the number and e mail address below and I will add it to next month's Around The Green.

Regards
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