

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