

## 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

It is now the beginning of January that I'm writing this and thankfully the snow all seems to have disappeared. It's still pretty cold so by the time you read this in February the snow will of probably come back. I say it every year but it doesn't half set you back with your winter programmes. especially if it's pretty big! We at Murcar Links were in the middle of building and renovating bunkers before the snow arrived and now we're only just getting back to them.

There's been a couple of sad bits of news been sent to me recently. The first bit is that Mike Campbell has passed away at the age of 78. A Lossie native, he spent 19 years as Head Greenkeeper at Moray Golf Club, retiring in 1997. Mike was renowned as a fit and active man who enjoyed his golf. Previous to his Greenkeeping, Mike spent time as a chef, was deployed to the Suez Canal during his National Service and he both fished and built boats out of the Buckie and Lossie shipyards. We would all like to pass on our condolences to his wife, Marjory, and family at this time.

Also a lot of you older greenkeepers will remember George Hampton, Head Greenkeeper at Fortrose. He sadly passed away just before Christmas and our thoughts are with his family at this time. There is an insert earlier on in the magazine from George Paterson remembering George Hampton.

Thanks to George Paterson for providing me with these notes to put in the magazine. He has been the first one to email me

with any news since I started doing this column. In fact I was quite shocked to find BIGGA notes in my inbox!

Also by the time you read this you'll either be at Harrogate, reading it on the BIGGA stand, or you'll have been down and are reading this back home if you didn't pick up a copy. Whatever the case hopefully you would of all had a great time and don't forget if any of you have any stories from your trip please drop me a line on 07813889374 or alternatively on tinternet [benbrookes@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:benbrookes@yahoo.co.uk)

That's all for this month guys and girls albeit mostly bad news but at least it's some news to share with the whole of the section.

Happy Winter Work  
Ben Brookes  
Murcar Links



### Ayrshire

Editor's Note  
*Apologies for the lack of December Notes. It was an error on my part. I received the email out of the office and didn't follow it through when I got back.*

*Here are the highlights of the Notes*  
Scott Mac

Results for the autumn outing to Dumfries & Galloway Golf Club are as follows:-1st Class. 1. Keith McCartney, 36 pts; 2. Derek Wilson, 33 pts; 3. William McMeiken, 32 pts. 2nd Class. 1. Kevin Kirkpatrick, 33 pts; 2. William McGhee, 31 pts; 3. Duncan Gray, 30 pts

Winner of the Harry Diamond Jug is William McMeiken, Turnberry.

I couldn't make the outing but my sources tell me that Keith and his staff had the course

looking really well! Well done, keep up the good work. Thanks goes to Dumfries & Galloway for the use of the club and its facilities.

Congratulations are due to Andrew Donnelly, from Thistle Ground Care, and his partner, Lynn, on the birth of their baby daughter, Orla. We wish you well from all in the Section!

From the snow at the beginning of the year and the big thaw and then when you think it's safe to come out again the rain hits us! Wouldn't be the Ayrshire we all know & love without it, eh?

I don't know what it is with you guys but everytime I ask for some news or some info about anything.... Yup anything, I get no feedback! So come on eh, get in touch.... You don't even have to speak to me just send me a text or drop me an email, I don't bite honest!

It's getting to that time of year again when we get our learning caps out from under the stairs and dust them off just in time to head up to the Carnegie Conference Centre, in Dunfermline, for the Scottish Regional Conference.... The date for this event is Tuesday, March 1. With speakers including Jim McKenzie, Estates Director at Celtic Manor; Chris Kennedy and Jack McMillan, The Wentworth Club, and Simon Watson, Syngenta, this year's event is sure to be one to be part of! So make sure this one for the diary. Booking forms will be posted to all Scottish members any additional forms can be obtained from Peter Boyd. Hope to see you all there!

Again I can't stress enough guys, get in touch and help out our Section with any news, large or small! Much appreciated.

For another month.

Cheers!

John Mair.



### West

Seasons greetings to all and hopefully we have all been busy making the course playable for all the keen golfers who were unable to play for so long during November and December, six weeks in my case.

Sitting here writing the few notes I have to mention, the course is open, but on temporary greens with snow expected, let's just hope it's not quite as bad as before Christmas. After the last lot of snow I discovered a bad attack of snow mould on several greens causing some concern for their condition and presentation at the start of the year, I hope not too many others have had the same misfortune.

There is not a lot happening at present except preparing things for the start of next year. I should bring to your attention the Scottish Conference to be held once again at Dunfermline on March 1. Some excellent speakers have been found so I would recommend attending. Cost will be £35 per ticket with lunch included as usual.

Spring outing will be held at Cowglen Golf Club and the date is May 19, which unfortunately I cannot attend as I will be sunning myself in Turkey at that time. Best of luck to all who try and attend.

The Scottish National outing will be at The Duke's course, in St Andrews, on June 17, and I would suggest making the effort to attend as Derek usually has it in tip top condition, plus the changes make the course far more enjoyable.

And, last but not least, I will report on how things went at Harrogate in the March issue, but until then I hope everybody

has a good start to the year and keeps well.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any events pending, sponsor walks, wedding, or birth, you can get in touch by phoning 0141-942-5554 or 07790823914, or by e-mail on [stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com](mailto:stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com)

Thanks again  
Stuart Taylor

## Northern



### North East

Well, not much to report this month, other than as I am writing this report earlier than usual so if anything comes in it will have to wait until later on. As I am writing this letter all the snow has gone thank goodness for that but isn't it marvelous that soon as the snow goes out come the golfers, pros etc wondering why the course is still closed, forgetting that the ground is still rock hard and the water is going nowhere quick. The mind boggles doesn't it?

Which brings me to my next bit of news. Did anyone see in our local paper about the course in our Section that decided to stage a Snow Open, to play over an adapted nine holes with none of the holes longer than 200yds, all of them par 3s? Then to cap it, running the tractors over and over to compact the snow and make it playable for the golfers. How stupid can you get? Then we had a thaw and their competition was cancelled, due to the course been flooded, while some other courses were open that day.

I mean to say, that's all we need, a non greenkeeper coming up with an idea like that. I just wish that pros and Directors of Golf would just keep to what they are best at and that's golf. Leave the course to the professionals, that been the greenkeepers, after all we do know what's for the best. Well, that's my moan for the month.

Jimmy Richardson



### North Wales

I like February it's my birthday month and I always book some time off to celebrate (and lick my wounds at being another year older!). It's also Valentine's Day soon, another literally lovely time for sappy romantics like me. Hopefully if we concentrate on the positives that each month brings us this year, we can keep an attitude that will push us on through what is going to be an undoubtedly awkward financial year.

We are to hold a half day seminar soon with content and venue still to be finalised, so all details will be posted to you in plenty of time to book your place.

In local news Gwillim Roberts, of Holyhead Golf Club, celebrates 36 years in greenkeeping.

Chris Baker, of Eaton Golf Club, and his wife, Kate, are moving on to pastures new by moving to Victoria, in South Africa, and Jamie Williams, of Vale of Llangollen Golf Club, and his other (some say better) half, Rhian, celebrated becoming parents for the first time last Christmas with the birth of their baby girl, Frankie. Congratulations, and best hopes, go to all from all of us in the Section.

I think that's about it for now so all the best until next month.

Pete Maybury e-mail [petemayb66@aol.com](mailto:petemayb66@aol.com) mobile 07756001187



### North West

We are now into February and Harrogate has come and gone for another year. May I on behalf of the North West BIGGA members take this opportunity to thank all involved in the setup of the show and the smooth running of what must be a logistical nightmare. Looking forward to next year.

Here in the North West we are in the midst of putting together an excellent package for 2011. This starts with the Spring tournament held here at Hesketh (date to be finalised) in April.

For anybody not wanting to golf there is the offer of a course walk with members of the green staff. I will ensure a translator is at hand. There is talk this year of a potential cricket match. All those interested please let us know.

As mentioned previously, this is your Section so please support it in 2011. If there is any info you wish to share, please let us know, finally may I wish you all a good growing Spring and a great prosperous season.

[pdmv@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pdmv@hotmail.co.uk)  
07885347818

Peter McVicar



### Sheffield

Unfortunately we start this month with some bad news, Ron Cheetham who was a long time member of our Section and Course Manager at Stocksbridge GC recently passed away. I'm sure there are many of you who knew Ron very well and it is very sad news. Our thoughts go to his family at this time.

I hope all of you who attended Harrogate week will have found the event to be useful once again and anyone one who attended any of the educational events found them useful as well.

We held our Section AGM at Lindrick GC in December with only a few people attending the Christmas meal. The Committee from 2010 has agreed to stand for 2011 and we have one new member on our Committee. I would like to welcome Stuart Pigott to the committee and I'm sure he is ready to with a series of ideas for the upcoming meetings.

Our Competition Secretary is busy finalising our golf calendar for 2011 and when all dates have been finalised then you will all be informed. I'm sure that there are many of you getting prepared for the new golf season and we will have a fantastic turnout for our first event.

Hopefully by the time you receive this magazine we will have held our first lecture of the year and you will have all been informed of our second lecture of the year. I would like to thank Rebecca, from Sherriff Amenity, for helping me organise the first of our lectures this year.

Once again the golf season

is approaching fast and we will all be counting that our Winters maintenance work has been finished and everything is geared up and ready to go for the start of the 2011 season.

That's all from me have an excellent February and will talk again in March.

James Stevens  
07738719614

## Midland



### East Midlands

Hello all, with the dust settling on another BTME week I hope all of you who attended got out of it what you expected and at the very least left having made new friends or picked up some new ideas for the coming season.

Back in the East Midlands Section we are busy finalising dates for your diaries for the coming year, with the first event being a trip to test our driving skills, karting at Wymeswold, this is taking place on the 17th of this month and I hope to see as many of you there as possible. Very soon (if you haven't already) you will be receiving your fixtures card for the year. The golfing diary is crammed full this year, along with the Annual Pairs competition we will be holding five competitions this year for all abilities.

The first event will be our Spring competition with a rescheduled trip to the Nottinghamshire GC, the second being the Summer comp at Cavendish GC. Both of these competitions will be held as our Qualifiers for the National Championship and played as a Stableford. Both courses offer genuine tests of golf and are worthy of a visit to experience the challenges presented, or if that fazes you too much you can admire the stunning scenery at Cavendish.

In answer to a comment made at our AGM, the committee would like to point out that its sole purpose is to offer events that will attract our members to come and play, and to meet this purpose we feel that it is best to carry on offering the qualifiers as Stableford events to give everybody the feeling of having a chance, especially in the lower division. Let's face it, there are many off us that break into a

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cold sweat at the mere thought of a medal round!

We then hope to introduce a new fun competition and BBQ at the stunning 9 hole par 3 course at Nailcote Hall, this is the venue for the National Par 3 Championships and will prove to be a great experience. The autumn competition and AGM will this year be held at Forest Hill GC, with the Christmas comp still to be finalised as I write.

As always your committee is working very hard to run your Section, at the moment we are looking into a format for a Autumn educational day, and as such would welcome any ideas for this event, also and as always if you have any suggestions, news or questions please feel free to contact me at pds1@btinternet.com or through out secretary Andy De Wet.

Finally on a sad note it is regret that I want to mention the passing of John Sykes, John was site foreman at the Nottinghamshire GC, sadly John passed away suddenly over Christmas, we would like to offer his friends and family our condolences.

Regards to all  
Pete Smith



## East of England

Belated Happy New Year to everyone.

As I write this we are finally clear of over five weeks of snow cover, just the thing that a struggling golf club relying on every penny needs! It took two days of snow clearing just to be able to enter the clubhouse from the road, then we started clearing off the greens..... That was three more days of constant shovelling but did pay off in getting the course playable again as well as helping the health of the greens themselves. A public thanks to my staff for the superhuman efforts involved during that time.

The snow also forced the cancellation of our Christmas golf day at Sleaford. I think the course was open and largely unaffected by snow, the cancellation was more down to people assuming it would be off and

also the safety of getting people to and from the venue at that time. At this point there is talk of it being played in March so keep those "bring and win" prizes wrapped up!

Congratulations goes to Robin Portess, of Immingham Golf Club, for winning the Order of Merit for 2010.

Golf fixtures have just about been finalised for this year, with the first being here at Immingham on Wednesday, May 25, tee off at 1pm. Fixtures will be posted here and on the website in due course.

Hopefully BTME was another successful show and not adversely affected by the weather or other factors beyond the control of BIGGA.

Many thanks.  
Steve Beverly.  
Immingham Golf Club.



## Midland

Welcome to February's Section notes all the way from sunny Trentham. Sean cannot complete the notes this month due to the failing of his computer once and for all, but to all those who enjoy reading, or should I say dissecting, his monthly notes, don't worry, he tells me he has ordered another computer and will be booted up and ready to go for March. Thank God for that because I understand why he is always moaning, "What am I supposed to write here?".

Many thanks to our calendar sponsor for February, TH White. Please consider them for your machinery needs if you are lucky enough to get some money to spend on your course this year. All our sponsors are greatly appreciated, especially in these difficult times so thank you to each and every one of you, keep it up!

I trust many of you got to Harrogate for a day or two, and despite the exhibitor numbers being down, still found the trip useful, and you got to catch up with some old friends during your visit. I consider it the best trade show around and always find it an excellent way to spend a few days in January.

Our cancelled Christmas Tournament at Woburn last December because of snow has been rearranged. We cannot go back to Woburn this spring, as hoped, due to refurbishment work on the clubhouse, but we are going back there in December for our Christmas event for 2011. Our rearranged Christmas Tournament will be held at Stonebridge Golf Club on March 8,. The format will remain the same with the usual full English breakfast before play at 10am followed by a sit down meal following play. Our sponsor, Crocodile Golf, will be sponsoring the prizes, so please try and support it. Send entries to Gary or Rhys in the usual way please.

That's all from me, come back Sean all is forgiven!  
Ed Stant

## South East



### East Anglia

Thorpeness Golf Club - December 2010

Here we go again then. Hope you had a merry & happy things.

Our last meeting at Thorpeness went like clockwork as usual, except for Yours Truly! I missed most of the AGM and then I had to leave early. As my old Headmaster used to say as he put the cane away - "You could do better, Lathrope".

Anyway, with help from Steve Freestone, we have something to put to paper; here goes:

The main sponsor for our umpteenth Turkey Trot was our old friend CMW.

Results: 1. Rushmere Hackers, 57.7; 2. Royal Cromer, 58.7; 3. Rookery Ramblers, 58.7; 4. Dunston Hall, 59.6

The Nearest, Longest and Closest are as follows - Sponsors are in brackets: Nearest 2nd (Aitkens) Peter Orbine; Nearest 7th (Bartram Mowers) Ross Stanard;

Nearest 10th (Ernest Doe) T. Mills; Nearest 16th (Tomlinson Groundcare) Matt Cartridge (12 bore!); Nearest in 2-6th (Lely UK) Paul Crask; Nearest in 2 - 11th

(Prime) Rob Mitchell; Nearest white line 5th (Collier Turf Care) Uncle Bob; Longest Drive Trade 14th, Andy Cureson; Longest Drive Guest 13th - Matt Lay;

Longest Drive Greenkeepers 0 - 14 4th (Baileys of Norfolk) Robert Whiting; Longest Drive Greenkeepers 15 - 21 1st (Rigby Taylor) Ben Grainger; Longest Drive Greenkeepers 22 - 28 18th (Tacit) Adrian Goode

There must have been nearly 200 people at Thorpeness - 120 were playing. All were welcomed by Mick Crabtree, Club Captain, who also presented the prizes.

The course, as usual, was in excellent condition thanks to Ian and the boys. Also the organisation of the day again, thanks to Ian, was first class.

The AGM, as I understand it went quite well. Roger Plummer was elected as our new Vice President - taken over from Uncle Bob Chesham who we wish a long and happy retirement.

Clive Osgood was singing our praises as probably the largest and best run outfit in the country and special praise for Colin (the President) Rushbrook for being at least a year in front for fixtures (2011 is already done, as is some of 2012).

2011 reads:- April - Rushmere followed by Yarmouth & Caister, Weston Park and Aldeburgh.

Colin also presented the Ernie Hart Services to Greenkeeping Award (bottle of port) to Roger Plummer. Nice one.

It was also nice to see Lyndon Upham back in the fold following his reinstatement as Head Greenkeeper at Gog Magog

Our thanks once again for a great day Thorpeness. Also a big thank you to our trade friends most of whom have already been mentioned. The rest are as follows:-

Ben Burgess, Symbio, Scotts, Headland, Sheriff, Ransomes Jacobsen and Lely UK

See you in the Spring.

As it's the season for new Chairmen of the Greens, read on.

Secretary asks Greenkeeper what he thought of his Chairman of Greens? Greenkeeper replied "I made a vow not to discuss Chairmen of Greens with Secretaries, and I'm not going to break it for that idiot!"

Mick Lathrope



## Surrey

A belated Happy New Year to all my merry readers, please note merry not many and the same felicitation to all those who have the good sense not to bother. Did you all have a good Christmas? I did, with our now annual cruise to the sunny shores of the North Eastern most of the Channel Islands. We ventured out on Boxing Day to experience the Ventnor midday swim and were amused by the many colourful and gay costumes worn by the brave hearted and the thongs that the more plucky and copious chaps wore on entry into those chilly waters but who on exit were somewhat less so.

The atrocious weather before Christmas meant that my van and I stayed at home for many days and that the Surrey turkey trot was cancelled. Happily Guildford GC were able to fit us in yesterday, January 7, and as I was unavailable, due to a prior engagement, the result was recorded by our ever efficient Secretary and golfer supreme, Ron Christie, so the following is a verbatim report of his comments. The main prize of the day, the nearest the pin, was won by that very same golfer supreme, Ron Christie. Please remember that this is Ron's report not mine and any future slander lawsuit must be directed at him and not yours truly. The longest drive prize meant that Mark Harvey was able to go home and give it to his partner. The runner up team prize went to Tony Kyle, a possible relation to that well known other chap, Lloyd Barnes, Jason O'keefe and Richard Bacon. Score 53.2. The winners - and I hope I have written this down correctly - wore strikingly extravagant and large brimmed headgear? and were, in no particular order of importance, Dave Guy, Peter Marney, Andy Foulds and Andy Hall. Score 52.9. Jim Russell took five off Gary Ogilvie, unfortunately Ron did not say whether this was pence, pounds or a bunch of.

The day commenced with

a bacon roll and coffee or tea if you followed Tony Bremer's preference and then with a shotgun start at ten battle began. Ron said the course was in fantastic condition and praised Matt Lawrence and his team for restoring the greens and fairways after so much extreme weather. The food was also excellent and Clive Osgood was there in his capacity to give the thumbs up and get the curry, lasagne and chilly down. The players had soup halfway round which was very welcome. Many thanks to Guildford GC, its Captain and members.

The AGM followed or preceded, Ron did not say, but no matter as it was dealt with in Surrey's usual swift and efficient manner. Sadly our Chairman, John Ross, has resigned and needs replacing. If you know of any member with John's charisma, organisational abilities and managerial qualities please contact a committee member in writing and in complete confidence and leave the paper recycling to them. John, sorry that was my little joke, Ron really said and I agree wholeheartedly, that you have been an admirable chairman and will be seriously missed by Surrey committee and Surrey members. I hope that your future career will be all you wish for.

Brian Willmott.

## South West and South Wales



### South West

We've done it again, that's right the Section have had another amazing Christmas fixture. On December 16 the guys saw themselves heading to Lansdown Golf Club, home of Jon Jarvis. Let's be honest here, you all know how difficult this winter has been, with the frost in the ground deeper than my fork and the snow at times as deep as my knees, preparing a golf course for 40 odd greenkeepers could make some people nervous. Not Jon and his guys. The course was

looking as good as any other course would have this time of year, a great credit to you all at Lansdown.

The actual day was brilliant - 36 players and eight extras for the evening meal. As always we had our now famous raffle, rising £362, this was divided up and donated to different charities. What a great effort here!

At the Christmas fixture, the raffles so big everyone's a winner, but for the golfing competition there can only be one....3rd place Joe Curtis 39pts, 2nd place Tim Needham 39pts (after countback) and the winner (you may have heard this name here before), Stuart Broom 40pts.

I would now like to thank our Patronage Partners, thanks to them every year we are able to have a sponsored place for four days at Harrogate for a young greenkeeper. This year I would like to congratulate James Wright, from Worlebury Golf Club. Well done James, from the whole Section we very much hope you have a fantastic time!

Arriving in your e-mail inbox very shortly will be this year's fixture list, please make every effort to attend to as many events as you can this year. Your section really needs your support and you also know that you can gain so much more than just a round of golf!

Its joke time, what's the Australian version of LBW??? Lost...Beaten...Walloped!!!!

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 for the link and ill happily forward it to you.

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



### South Coast

Hi all.

Hope all is well with every one, and that the start of 2011 has not been as white as the end

## Assistant Profile

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

**Name:** Luke Cordery  
**Age:** 21  
**Club:** Bearwood Lakes Golf Club  
**Position:** Green Staff  
**Nickname:** Lukey Boy



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

4 ½ years

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

Working outdoors

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

Testing computer games

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

Verti-draining because the tractor is fitted with a radio and you get a bit of alone time!

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

Trimming pop-ups. Its always me that has to do it!

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

Extra days holiday.

### 7. Hobbies?

Football, Golf, PS3

### 8. Favourite Band?

Oasis

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

The mighty Royals! (Reading)

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

Colin Montgomerie took the mick out of me for having the first iphone!

### Want to appear as an Assistant Profile?

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

# Around The Green

of 2010, down in Southampton we had more snow than I can remember sledging and snow ball fights better than ever.

Section news is a bit slow this time of year as it is either under snow or water so more news next month.

Hope every one had a great time at Harrogate, met up with old friends and made new ones. Try this year to keep in contact with all of them as you promised late at night in Wetherspoons.

Make this the year that you play all the Section golf days, do extra education, get fit, read that book you have always wanted to read, start to play a musical instrument and visit that place in the world that you have always liked the look of.

Look forward to seeing you at our Section events this year as we have some great venues, so practice well get your handicap down and join in, meet new people get new ideas and solve problems by asking other greenkeepers, so please support your Sections.

Chris Bitten



## South Wales

Hi Everyone

Hope you are all well.

As I write, the heavy snow of the Christmas period has finally gone and many of you returned to work to find you greens in better condition than they usually are after the Christmas and New Year golf fixtures. Mainly because there weren't any fixtures! The snow didn't help most clubs' finances, but since returning to work, I have seen many full car parks, with golfers keen to try out their new clubs, electric trolleys and loud sweaters! And on that subject I can give you the results of the Christmas competition.

The results from the Christmas Competition at Royal Porthcawl are as follows: Winner - Andy Roach, 34pts; 2. Leigh Davies, 30pts; 3. Gareth Knight, 29pts.

Nearest the Pin - Alan Abel; Longest drive - Darryl Jones (about 3 miles!) Best Trade - Alan Abel, 31pts. Christmas Spoon - Lucy Sellick, 12pts. Guess the balls lost - Lucy Sellick (89) Sorry Lucy! Steve Chappell put

that in!

Silver Salver prize for best scores throughout the season - Wayne Bengier

A great day was had by all 33 golfers, or should I say hardy souls, braved the arctic winds and sleet showers to play 18 holes over the wonderfully presented golf course. Huge thanks to Ian Kinley and his team for their hard work in such testing conditions. Ian told me that they basically couldn't prepare the greens in any way, save changing the holes on the morning of the competition and yet the feedback was that the greens were excellent! 38 sat down for the traditional Christmas dinner which didn't disappoint so our thanks go to Jo and her team for looking after us. Thanks also to Wyn Davies and Chris Hopkins, from Ted Hopkins, & John Pike, from Toro, for sponsoring the day. Finally thanks to Royal Porthcawl Golf Club for agreeing to host the event.

We also wish Tony Horne a speedy recovery after Tony suffered a heart attack before Christmas. We wish him and his family all the best.

The evening lecture for February will take place at Pencoed college on Wednesday, Feb 23 at 7pm. Speaker to be confirmed. Thanks again to our friends from Countrywide for sponsoring the night.

Still on the education front, the annual Avoncrop Amenity Products Education Seminar will again be held at Ashburnham Golf Club on Wednesday, February 23. Among the companies represented will be Scotts, Syngenta and Barenbrug. The day is free and includes a bacon roll and coffee on arrival and also a buffet lunch. Give me a call if you would like to reserve a place.

That's it for now. See you all soon I hope.

Ceri Richards  
07831 16864  
celticceri@aol.com



## Devon and Cornwall

Hello all,

Apologies for no notes last month, but there wasn't much

to report as I managed to get the summary of the Porthpean meeting in before the deadline and in the December Edition. Our Annual Christmas meeting was held at Saunton Golf Club on Wednesday, December 15 with 80+ attendees enjoying a fresh but gorgeous sunny day. The event was kindly sponsored by MST and Irritech. The day consisted of Golf or a Course walk led by Ray Day, Course Manager at Saunton Golf Club. Starting with the Golf (Apologies if I have left anyone out, as unfortunately I misplaced my notes!)

The format was Greensomes playing on the West Course for the MST/Ramsomes Jacobsen Trophy and on the East Course for the Irritech Cup. With a total of 50 players enjoying the sunshine and perfect conditions, yet chilly, there were prizes a plenty to play for! Winning on the East Course was David Hiscock and Gordon Child; 2. Kelvin and Ashley Millar, all from Churston GC. Nearest the Pins were won by Kelvin and Ashley Millar and Longest Drives by Simon Saunders, Woodbury Park, and James Sheehan, Truro. Winning, on the East Course was Jonathan Bullen and Shaun Warren, Staddon Heights, 2. Richard Parker and Jorden Wooden, Ilfracombe, 3. Jason Hampton, Stover, and Jason Brooks, Torquay. Nearest the Pins were won by Jason Brooks and Andy Parker, PGA, and Longest Drives by Jason Hampton and Jordan Wooden. Congratulations and well played to all Golf prize winners. The Course walk was enjoyed by the remaining 30+ attendees. Ray took the party firstly on to the East Course, then the West Course and finally the impressive and well organised maintenance facilities. Ray explained how the Courses have evolved and how different techniques have been utilised to improve traffic routes. He showed off some recent projects, Tee extensions and Bunker revetting as well as explaining how the club work very closely with Natural England on this environmentally sensitive site. The natural sand dunes at Saunton make up a truly remarkable landscape, one that is made for Golf! At this point, I would like to say a special mention to MST for providing a Halfway House that was enjoyed by both sets of golfers as well as

the course walkers. Hot Pasties were provided for all along with a selection of beverages. This has become a great feature of the Christmas meeting and is thoroughly enjoyed and remarked on by very thankful attendees.

The two Courses were in fantastic condition and a credit to Ray and all the green staff at Saunton. After visiting the facilities, it was time for a quick change and into the club for our Christmas meal. This was followed by entertainment in the shape of Comedian, Jimmy Quinn, who, a keen golfer himself, entertained the members with stories and jokes. After the entertainment the golf prizes were awarded by our Chairman, Colin Webber. Two extra raffle prizes were awarded, one being a hamper supplied by John Palfrey, from Avoncrop. This was won by Steven Cox, Sidmouth GC. The second was a free trip to Harrogate, funded by the Section, won by Christy Worthington, Saunton. A big thank you to all the committee members who helped with organising the day and to Saunton Golf Club for their help and hospitality in making this a successful and memorable day.

By the time you have read this, Harrogate would have been and gone. Again this year the Region organised travel and accommodation for our members. Thanks to Jane Jones for organising this. A big thank you to Scott Gibson, St Enodoc, and Keith Kemp, West Cornwall, for organising the Minibus again this year and to Richard Japes, Sports Metals, for Sponsoring the bus. This is very much appreciated by the Section and the Region.

Another special mention is to Trevor Dodge, Head Greenkeeper, Looe Golf Club, Cornwall, who celebrated 40 years at the club on January 3 this year! An amazing achievement, well done Trevor!

During February, there are two gatherings, firstly on Wednesday, Feb 9, Section Meeting at Warren Golf Club and secondly on Wednesday, Feb 23, we have a Drainage Workshop at St Mellion International. Please contact me for further details and to book yourself a place on either of these events.

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