

health and safety advisor Jon Allbut. Jon explained to us the importance of a golf buggy policy and how improving the access for disabled members is now important within golf course development. An impressive presentation was given by Jim McKenzie, Course and Estates Manager, at Celtic Manor. I'm sure that many of you would have already seen a Jim McKenzie presentation, however this was my first one and it was great to see the how the Ryder Cup was really won. An inside look at the at the 2010 course...IMPRESSIVE!

Away from the golf course, the football season is coming to a close and in the premiership, for once, there is everything to play for at both ends of the table, could this be the most exciting season...My predictions for the title are 1- Man Utd, 2- Arsenal, 3- Chelsea, 4- Man City? Who goes down...West Ham, Blackpool, and Wigan??? What do you think??

I would like to thank our patronage partners for all of their support for 2011: Ecosol, Irritech Limited, Countrywide, British Seed House, Headland, Avoncrop and Martyn Lane Golf Signs. Your support is very much appreciated by the whole Section.

Remember that we also have our own South West Section Facebook page, proving to be very useful, only for it grow as more of you become involved. If you are not a member of the page, it's time you were. Ask for the link and I'll happily forward it to you.

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## South Wales

Firstly, I have details of the Section's golf fixtures for the year. Thanks to Steve Chappell for providing me with this information.

The fixtures are as follows:

Spring Competition: Glynthir Golf Club, Thursday May 12, sponsored by DEAL and Textron.

Summer Competition: Wenvoe Castle GC, Wednes-

day July 6, sponsored by Tacit; Autumn Competition: Trefloyne GC, Friday, October 14, sponsored by DEAL and Textron; Christmas Competition: Royal Porthcawl, date and sponsors TBC.

Match v South West: Chippenham GC, Friday, August 12, sponsored by Inscapes;

Match v GCMA: Neath GC, Thursday, August 25, sponsored by CWC.

Rigby Taylor Qualifier: Neath GC, Thursday, June 16.

Golf Management Trophy: Morryston GC, Wednesday, June 29, sponsored by Tacit.

Obviously, you will be notified of any changes to the dates above. Thanks in advance to the sponsors; the Section would be difficult to run without your help.

Thanks to all those who attended Jim McKenzie's Ryder Cup talk at Pencoed College back in March. The attendance was good and attendees were treated to a first class presentation. Thanks Jim!

Good Luck to John Phillips, Head Greenkeeper at St David's City GC, on his forthcoming retirement.

Finally, this will be my last 'Around the Green'. Over the last two and a half years I have written 30 columns! So I think it's a nice round number to end on and about time that someone else is given a chance! And preferably a greenkeeper! I have really enjoyed the experience and hope that my efforts have helped out the section that I have been proud to have been a member since the late eighties. Thanks for all the complimentary words about the column that I received while 'on my rounds', they were greatly appreciated!

Right! That's it from me! Hopefully I will see you soon, maybe at one of the above golf events where I will prove that my golf is as bad as my jokes!

Ceri Richards



## Devon and Cornwall

Hello all,

Our March meeting was held at Merlin Golf Club, North Cornwall. 30+ attendees

enjoyed a cracking day. Richard Gerrard, Course Manager, led a course walk around this relatively new course which was in fantastic condition. The Golf competition was won by Anthony James (Jacko), from Killiow GC, receiving the "Bayer Cup", 2. Andrew Prouse, from Porthpean; 3. Mike Ellis, from Lake View GC. Both Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive were won by Mike Ellis too! Many thanks to our two sponsors for the day: Bayer and Famura. The afternoon educational speaker was Mark Hunt, from Headland Amenity. For those of you that know Mark would know that the attendees were given an expert and very professional presentation by someone who is extremely passionate about our industry. The feedback we have had from this presentation has been glowing. Many thanks to Mark for making the journey and taking time out of his busy schedule to deliver the presentation. A big thank you to Richard Gerrard, and everyone at Merlin GC, for their wonderful hospitality.

John Mitchell, of Perranporth GC, has retired after 47 years at the club. John started working at Perranporth GC in 1961 although he left again in 1973 for a job at the clay pits for a lot more money, enabling him to buy his house and get married. He returned again in 1976 at the request of the club when his brother, Billy Mitchell broke his right leg fib & tib, with an equivalent salary to which the clay pits paid him. He finally retired in March having worked with his brother for 47 years. An amazing achievement. For those of you who know Billy and John down at Perranporth, you will know that they are both fully deserving of all accolades and tributes they receive. The Club held a retirement party for John on Friday, April 1, and presented him with a golf bag & honorary life membership. An excellent evening, the bar took nearly a thousand pounds which more than paid for the food they put on. Keith Kemp, West Cornwall, and Scott Gibson, St Enodoc, attended the evening to represent the industry. Well done John, we hope to still see you at forthcoming meetings and we hope you really enjoy your well-deserved retirement.

Our next meeting will be

## Assistant Profile

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



### Name:

Gary Fraser

### Age: 31

Club: Rockcliffe Hall

Position: Qualified Assistant

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

Eight Years

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

Working outdoors and being involved in golf

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

Still in the Armed Forces

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

Particularly enjoy pedestrian mowing – but all aspects of the job really

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

Any tree work

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

Education

### 7. Hobbies?

Golf and Football

### 8. Favourite Band?

Foo Fighters

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

Inverness Caledonian Thistle

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

Worked on a number of pro tournaments