

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



Scotland



East

What a fantastic autumn outing we had at the Braid Hills Golf Course. Twenty-two played on September 14 on a warm sunny 'breezy!' day. I believe the Braids is a highly under rated course, with some fabulous holes, great views and super greens. Thanks to Derek McLeod, the Head Greenkeeper and his crew, for the excellent presentation of the course and also Ian Grimwald, 'the pro', for providing Jim Davidson and myself some excellent advice on the day.

Eight-five year old George Stavert was there with two of his friends, one of whom was George Thompson, an ex Head Greenkeeper of the Braids, for 12 years, back in the days when men were men, eh!

You were very welcome boys, and it was nice to see my old friend George Stavert again, he even gave me a smile. Cheers boys.

Scores on the doors: Scratch winner. Philip Butler, Murrayfield GC. First Class winner. Derek McLeod, Braid Hills GC; Runner-up. Yohan Svard, Edinburgh Leisure. Second Class winner. Alan Campbell, Edinburgh Leisure; Runner-up. Ryan McCulloch, Gossick GC. (Old Veterans' winner) The young Alastair Holmes, Seahouses GC; Patrons' winner. Hugh Fraser, Huxley Golf Limited. Longest Drive. Andrew Terras, Gossick GC. Nearest to Pin. Stuart Ferguson, Dundas Park GC

On a sad note, I can tell you that Jimmy Neilson has had a small stroke, but he attended

our last committee meeting and is well on the road to recovery. We wish him well.

I had an email from Ronnie McCrindle, Liberton GC, to say that he had been unwell recently. So good wishes to him and his recovery.

The AGM this year at the moment is going to be held on November 15, at Niddrie Castle GC, in Linlithgow, the sponsor of which will be Huxley Golf Limited.

I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Yours in golf
Stewart Crawford



Central

A small but enthusiastic band of members were fortunate to hear a presentation from Joe Vargas, of Michigan State University, in St Andrews on October 3.

Joe spoke for over an hour on both the cultural and chemical practices of controlling a variety of common diseases such as dollar spot, anthracnose and fusarium patch diseases.

By the time you read this, the Section AGM will have come and gone and a full report will be on the website www.bigga-centralsection.org.uk

Allan Patterson, Course Manager at the Castle Course, was selected to represent St Andrews Links in this year's Alfred Dunhill Links Championship and acquitted himself well. Playing with Jean-Baptiste Gonnet as his Pro, they finished a respectable 17 under for the three rounds which was unfortunately four shots off making the cut for the last day. Many of the competitors were very complimentary of all three courses during the week.

Also at the time of writing, there may be an outside chance we can arrange a presentation from Marsh Benson, Director of Maintenance at Augusta National. Marsh is going to be in the area in mid November and if we can set this up we will contact members by email as well as advertising it on the website.

Gordon Moir



West

By the time you get this copy of the magazine the AGM will have been done and dusted, the venue being a mix of Ibrox Football Stadium and Hags Castle Golf Club, I will report next month on what happened and any feedback for members' attention.

The outing, at Williamwood Golf Club, was held on September 29 instead of the 15th, due to the poor weather conditions and the change of date certainly made the difference with beautiful sunshine sampled by all who attended. Unfortunately I, and my staff, were unable to compete due to a shortage of staff through a variety of things, but those who did play, experienced a course in excellent condition and thanks must go to Gerry Bruen and his staff for their efforts. Williamwood's committee has to be commended on allowing our presence this is very much appreciated, and thanks to both the catering and bar staff for attending to our requirements.

The prize winners on the day were: Scratch Alistair Reid, Williamwood gross 72. 1st Class 1. John Brown, Bearsden; 2. Craig Littlejohn, Bearsden; 3. Gerry Bruen, Williamwood. 2nd Class. 1. Blair Sommerville, Helensburgh; 2. Brian Hillen,

Drumpellier; Jack Steadman, Blairbeth; 3rd Class. Kevin Cross, Williamwood; 2. Sandy Brawley, East Kilbride; 3. David McBride, Vale of Leven. Visitors' prize and Longest Drive Peter Boyd. Nearest the Pin at hole 4. Gavin Jarvis. Nearest the Pin at hole 13. Willie Lewis.

On the day only 24 people attended and enjoyed the event which is a wee bit disappointing but maybe the next time more can get the time off.

The normal annual dinner has been difficult to discover a format which everybody wants and will attend, along with trying to get a suitable location which suits all. Last year the cancellation of the night meant a slightly reorganised pub crawl took place with those who had organised their baby sitters and house sitters, so this year it has been proposed to do a similar thing meeting in Glasgow at all bar one on November 25 for a few jars and a wee discussion on things. This will be an early meet up to allow those with trains to catch to get up the road in time, all are welcome so please let me know and keep you informed.

The annual match against the club masters was arranged for October 10 so I will report next month on the result, please remember to get in touch with any information births, deaths, marriages etc. on 0141-942-5554, or 07790823914, or e-mail stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com

Stuart Taylor



North

Hope everyone is well and by now all the Autumn renovation work is now done and dusted for another year. Our Autumn Outing this year was held at

Petercutler Golf Club on September 22. This was another fantastic Section outing with a total of 62 members and guests attending in what was a really warm summer's day. The prize winners on the day are as follows:

Nearest the Pin winners were at the 3rd hole. Robert Patterson, Royal Aberdeen GC; 8th hole. Andrew Scott, Petercutler GC' and 15th hole. Neil Metcalf, Craibstone GC.

First in the sweep was Stewart Clayton, Scotlube; 2. Derek Green, Inverurie GC; 3. Neil Metcalf, Craibstone GC, 4. Stuart Addison, Meldrum House GC. The Guest Winner was Norman Bruce, McDonald GC. The Trade Winner was Stewart Clayton, Scotlube. Committee Trophy Winner was Robert Patterson, Royal Aberdeen GC. Veterans: 1. Roy Donald, Oldmeldrum GC; 2. Jim McCormack, Kirriemuir GC. Apprentice Trophy: 1. Andrew Scott, Peterculter GC. Class 3: 1. Mike Braidwood, Royal Aberdeen GC; 2. Tim Leitch, Deeside GC; 3. Hugh McLatchie, Peterhead GC. Class 2: 1. Stewart Brown, Royal Aberdeen GC;

2. Dave Middleton, Royal Aberdeen GC; 3. Billy Craig, Kirriemuir GC. Class 1: 1. Neil Metcalf, Craibstone GC; 2. Stuart Addison, Meldrum House GC; 3. Simon Hoy, Royal Aberdeen GC. Scratch: 1. Derek Green, Inverurie GC; 2. George Mitchell, Newmachar GC.

The winner of the Mark Main Trophy for the best Nett score over the Spring and Autumn Outing's was Derek Green, Inverurie GC.

The Committee would like to pass on their thanks to Petercutler Golf Club and Course Manager, Paul Sharp and his team, for the superb condition of the golf course.

The 200 Club winners were £30 Neil Mitchell; £30 Gary Smith; £30 Dougal Duguid with the £100 won by Gina Pearson

By the time you read this report we will have had our AGM at Longside Golf Club on October 20 so more new on that to follow.

One last thing before we finish a lot of you might like to know that the North Section has now been going strong for 62 years and it is great to know we still have a very well supported Section so thanks again and keep up the good work.

Please remember if you have any news you might want to put in the magazine please get

in touch with your Chairman Robert Patterson email Grassman351@aol.com or Secretary Dale Robertson daleturnberry@aol.com

Northern



Northern

Hello everyone. Hope you are all well. Nice to be sat here writing these few notes in such unusual hot weather. On September 28 the Section held the Autumn Golf, at Huddersfield GC, Fixby. The Section would like to thank Huddersfield GC for allowing us courtesy of the course, the catering staff for looking after us so well, and Ben and his team for presenting such a great course on the day, played in temperatures more usual for mid July. Results for the day were as follows, Div. 1. 1. D. Gosney; 2. A. Court; 3. B. Turner. Div. 2. 1. D. Campbell; 2. J. Waite; 3. D. Collins. Div 3. 1. S Rothwell; 2. N. Booth; 3. K. Christie. Nearest the Pin. 11th A. Court. Nearest the Pin. 17th. R. Harris. Trade Prize I. Collett. Our thanks also go to our sponsors for the day, Mansfield Sand, plus Golf and Turf Machinery.

The Section also held the AGM with 25 members attending the meeting. Due to different work commitments I sadly had to resign as Section Secretary, I hope to still see you at future golf events. Thank you for your support for the last few years. The rest of the Committee were re-elected to stand for another year, the new Secretary is to be Andrew Slingsby. Before the meeting the Section made a presentation to Joe Baxter on his retirement from Bingley St. Ives GC. The next Section golf day is the Christmas golf to be held at Selby GC. on December 7, 1st tee TBC.

As usual any news or gossip please pass it on to me F. Stewart, 72 West Park Grove Roundhay LS8 2DY. mob 07947401278, email frankstewart4@hotmail.co.uk, or the new Secretary, A. Slingsby 13 The Grove, Baildon, BD17 5NQ. mob 07506407867.

Frank Stewart



North East

On September 21 we held the Section's Autumn competition at Longhirst Hall Golf Club. This been the second time in recent years but for a reason It was only last year that Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Stuart Wilson, tragically lost his life. After having a meeting with Course Manager, Graham Chambers, he thought it would be a good idea to have the day in Stuart's honour.

Well the day started with a breeze briefly then quickly followed by a very strong wind playing havoc with the golf it just seemed either against you, or right to left, not ideal. Since we played The Lakes' course a lot of balls found the water. We just never seemed to have any holes downwind. Apparently the locals thought the wind wasn't too bad, Come to think of it, I reckon they played the other course. If that wasn't enough the rain came upon us for an hour, so you can imagine scores were rather high. But compliments to Graham and his staff as the course was in excellent condition, especially those slick greens.

Now then, let's not forget the sponsors on the day firstly Rickerbys, of Hexham, who had wanted to sponsor the day and gave a lot of prizes. Many thanks to David Common for that gesture (we still have a few left); TSL who unfortunately were unable to be there but gave two tickets for a Newcastle Utd match; Tony McLure, of TM Amenties; Neil Thompson, of Border Turf Services, and, last but not least, Graham Chambers. On behalf of the Section I would like to thank all of the sponsors who have supported us in both the Spring and Autumn comps.

Again there was not a large turnout but just a couple of regulars were missing so numbers did reach double figures (just). So let's get to the scores: Best Nett Ransomes Cup. J.S. Richardson, Hexham GC, 83-8-75; Best Gross. J. Gibson, The Northumberland GC, 85; Greenlay Cup Nett. G. Brown, Wooler GC, 86-9-77; Ransomes Shield. S.R.Pope, Tyneside GC, 93-15-78; D.Thompson, Hexham GC, 92-11-81; G.Batson, Alnmouth

GC, 98-13-85; R. Reid, Prudhoe GC, 96-8- 88; R. Black, Westerhope GC, 101-11- 90

Jimmy Richardson



North Wales

I hoped you all enjoyed the Indian summer that the end of September and beginning of October brought us. It was a very handy occurrence for anyone who was doing their autumn greens' renovation. I personally can't remember our greens coming back from heavy tining and dressing so quickly and tidily. Now we're all starting to face winter, short frosty days, long frostier nights and golfers who cry foul when you ban buggies to protect the course. But it's not all bad, we can now get our teeth into some building work, a lot more exciting than sitting on machines endlessly cutting grass as we seem to do in the growing season. A good bit of shovelling and raking to keep us warm, with the hopeful (weather permitting) finishing line of the Christmas break!

A good link because the Christmas tournament isn't too far away with it being held at Heswall Golf Club on December 7, format for the day will be a fourball am/am. Please remember to book your tee times by November 29 to avoid disappointment, as this tournament is always popular and the starting sheet will fill very quickly.

The autumn tournament took place at Porthmadog on October 11; this column has to go to print before the day actually took place so I will place a full write up on the day and results in December.

The Northern Region Seminar is this year being split into two seminars, one in the north of the Region and one in the south. I personally believe this to be an excellent idea to give us all more chance to be involved without a massive journey but this will only be a success if we go to said seminar, so I hope we all endeavour to go and, with prices to members at £15 and non-members £20, it's far from being exorbitant and the venue being Birchwood Golf Club, near Warrington, it's within easy access from the A55 as well!

Congratulations go to Miles

Around The Green

Todd, of Rhuddlan Golf Club, on reaching the finals of Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year. I hope you continue to enjoy learning with your runners-up prize of a trip to the Continue to Learn programme, at Harrogate, next January.

We are now taking enquiries for a coach to Harrogate but, be warned, unless we have enough seats filled to make the trip a viable one it will not run and that would be a shame as this next show will be the year when all the big manufacturers and exhibitors will be there!

Please don't forget to keep an eye on our facebook group, North Wales BIGGA, as sometimes events show themselves too late to go in the column and when that happens we try to put them on the group events board instead, also if you want to start a topic of conversation or argument there's also a page on there for that too!

If you want to get in touch with me to put your personal or club related news in our "Around the Green" column please feel free I will only be too pleased to place your news in here.

Right I think that's enough to be going on with so, all the best until next month.

Pete Maybury e-mail petemayb66@aol.com mobile 07756001187 calls or text.



Sheffield

Firstly I must apologise for the lack of news over the last couple of months.

I hope all who have attended recent golf matches have had a good day and enjoyed the courses they have played. There will be a full report from Lindrick GC in next month's issue. In the meantime all members can check our facebook page for up to date information. All golf tee times will now be published on facebook prior to the events.

Our winter lecture organisation is in full swing now and I am pleased to announce that on 10th November we will have Jim McKenzie, Director of Golf at Celtic Manor, as our first lecture of the winter. We are very lucky to get Jim to Sheffield and hope members will make the

effort to attend what I'm sure will be a fantastic afternoon. All members should have received information on this now but it's not too late to grab a place. Further lectures are well on their way to being organised and members will be informed closer to the date.

That's all from me for now, all I hope is that when you read this Wednesday are still above United in the League.

See you soon
Jim Stevens
07738719614
facebook - Biggasheffieldsection

Midland



East of England

Our annual match vs the Trade was played on September 14, at Gainsborough Golf Club. Another disappointing Trade turnout meant that the match was more Greenkeepers vs Trade and Pottergate Golf Club members. However it was still a competitive, well played match that ended up with the Greenkeepers winning 5 - 1. Many thanks go to Gainsborough Golf Club for the excellent condition of the golf course and for the hospitality enjoyed afterwards. Thanks also goes to Ping for providing the prizes on the day. Nearest the Pin on 7th. Rob Bemment. Nearest the Pin on 17th, Ian Benn; Nearest the Pin in 2 on 14th. Alan Martin.

Many thanks.
Steve Beverly
Immingham Golf Club.



Midland

For many years we have contested the Rigby Taylor Midland Region Ryder Cup style golf event and this year such was held at Stratford Upon Avon GC of which Samuel Ryder was a prominent member. The course was in great condition as pre-

pared by H. Middlebrook and fine his team. The match was as close as can be - a draw. As the East Midland Section were last year's winners they retain the Shield and our congratulations to them.

As usual the East players were great company and a pleasure to spend the day with, and I had the added pleasure of my counterpart's company during the afternoon's play with Pete Smith. Pete gave me a right royal spanking of 6&5.

My apologies to our side. Our thanks to Stratford Upon Avon GC for hosting the event, and thanks to our old mate Tony Cheese/Rigby Taylor for continued support of both of our Sections.

The Autumn Golf Tournament was played at Sandwell Park Golf Club on Wednesday, October 5. Many thanks to the Captain of the Club, John Deakin, for joining us for dinner and welcoming us to this very challenging golf course. The day was memorable with us contending with high winds and very quick greens. Our thanks as always to the Club for allowing us courtesy, and to Kenny McNab, the Course Supervisor and his team, for the excellent course condition. The main prize sponsors on the day were Campey Turfcare, through Simon Gumbrell.

Nearest the Pin prizes supplied by Sherriff Amenity x2, Whitemoss and Countrywide. As always the chocolate, crisps and drink was on the 10th tee as supplied by Farols, and Kev Pugh. A big thank you to all sponsors on the day, your generosity makes these days what they are. Results on the day: Gross. Mike Hughes; 1. Mike Hughes, 34pts; 2. Andy Brougham, 33pts; 3. Clint Woodall, 32pts; Category 1. Vince Gilroy; Category 2. Rob Rowson; Category 3. Ian Holbourne; Nearest the Pins were won by Mike Hughes x2, Peter McCrainor and Rob Rowson. Congratulations to all who won something on the day.

Please note that we have a new website address which has changed the .com for a .co.uk - this is due to the website provider trying to charge us more than we were prepared to pay. The full address to get your Midland Section info is now www.biggamidlandsection.co.uk

Please use this site to get information on an upcoming

trip during December to the John Deere factory, in conjunction with Farols.

Now that the season of leaves is upon us we find ourselves with the daunting and unrewarding task of clearing up such. Luckily this month's calendar sponsor, Turfmech Machinery Ltd, can provide great machinery to ease this burden and can be contacted on: 01889 271 503, or visit their website: www.turfmech.co.uk <<http://www.turfmech.co.uk>>. I wonder if they can provide a machine to remove leaves from rivers?

Sean, Salmon and Sea-trouted up, (next month) McDade.

South East



Sussex

Many thanks to Mark Day and Tacit for sponsoring our Golf Day at Crowborough Beacon. The course was in fantastic condition and in a superb location. The weather did its best to treat us kindly, although a few more faces on the day would have been better. The results were: Longest Walk. Mick Groombridge; Trade & Guest Prize. Andy Mantelow; Main Event. 1. Chris Wells; 2. Glynn "Always the Bridesmaid" Pollard; 3. Peter Ray

Well done to all of them and thanks a million to Mark Day, and Tacit, for the fantastic prizes. A big thanks to all at Crowborough Beacon for a great golf day.

Anyone wishing to take part in the next Mitchell's Grounds-care fishing competition, should contact Darren or Scott. The competition will be sea fishing at Pevensey Bay, on Saturday December 10. It will be a roving competition from Alice's Pipe to White Horses Tower. Booking in from 2.30pm. The

competition starts at 4pm, finishing at 9pm. All welcome, whether novice or otherwise.

Tight lines.

Eric Green

TheGreens837@aol.com



Kent

Just back from a fantastic golf day at the superb Sittingbourne and Milton Regis Golf Club. The Indian Summer, which has had everyone scratching their heads over recently when it comes to course maintenance, was very welcome and over 30 Kentish men took full advantage of the conditions.

Brightly coloured shorts, shirts (and hats for the follically challenged ones among us) were the order of the day as the autumn sun beat down on the finest ensemble of talent that Kent can muster. The excellently prepared course which Dave Horn and his team had set up for our discerning group was faultless.

I was particularly impressed with the second hole which yielded a rare eagle for me! Indeed, for once I seemed to have brought my 'A' game to one of our events and, despite a wobble in the middle of the round, had a great time enjoying good golf and the usual great company as our group made our way to a much longed for 19th hole! Vic Maynard was again on patrol with his refreshment wagon. We thank him and Ernest Doe's for going to more expense than usual (don't ask) to provide the necessary sustenance to our flock.

Following the golf and a very welcome shower the usual banter was lively in the bar before a great dinner was provided by the Club. We would like to offer sincere thanks to the Secretary, Mr Charles Maxted, and all his

staff for a great day. Results as follows: 1. Michael Roberts, Knole Park, 38 pts (countback); 2. Chris White, Knole Park, 38 pts; 3rd Wayne Syers, Wants a job, 37 pts. Trade Prize. Rob Holland, 36 pts. Longest Drive. Darren Child; Nearest the Pin. Kev Morris. Thanks too, for the additional prizes provided by Richard Wood, of Sherriff Amenity.

Thanks to everyone who joined us on the day. Great fun, great atmosphere, great friends.

Best of luck this month to Kev Morris who is participating in 'Movember' (see facebook). The basic premise being that entrants are challenged to grow moustaches by going unshaven on the upper lip area for the whole month of November to support good causes. In his own inimitable style, Kev managed to coerce sponsorship to the tune of nearly £300 on the evening, which shall be presented to Kent Section's nominated charity at the end of the month. The end of the month (well, the 24th to be exact) coincides with our Winter Knees-up/Turkey Trot at its new base of Redlibbits Golf Club.

I know I don't need to tell you about the revelry that more often than not ensues on our winter outing. Kev Morris's course in Fawkham has had a great year and will, I'm assured, be in perfect condition for all to enjoy. The golf and dinner shall be followed by our AGM.

If you have any concerns about how our Section is being run then please come along and voice your opinion. Your current committee are fully aware that the Section is run for you guys all over our county.

We want feedback from you to ensure that we do the best by you to help encourage and

promote your careers to the best of our ability.

We shall also be distributing a fixture list for 2012 and presenting awards for our Pairs Knock-out Champions and Golfer of the Year. We hope to see as many of you as possible for the meeting, if not the whole day. If nothing else, it will be worth turning up to see Kev's attempted 'tache!

Please keep up to date with our website where details of Turkey Trot can be found otherwise have a great month one and all.

PS I'd just like to say to the guys I am currently working with that you're all mad but it's great fun. More on that next month.

Best of British
Rob Holland



Mid Anglia

I'll start off our Section news with results from our Autumn meeting held at St. Neots GC in September.

Great weather greeted 19 players - a disappointing turnout once again and something your Committee will be looking into for next year. Results: 1. K. Armstrong, 33 pts; J. Wilson, 33 pts; 3. N. Broadwith, 32 pts.

These three were the only players to break into the 30s a sign of the testing course Paul Crouch and his team presented to us.

Thanks Paul and team couldn't fault the course as always!

Thanks also to Rob Catlin, of Am-Tec, our main sponsor of the day for the great prizes the

above named won and

the Nearest the Pin prizes won by D. Mugford, D. Murphy, G. James and P. Crouch. Many thanks to the other trade representatives for your continued support also.

After being well fed and watered by the St. Neots in house staff, thanks to these also! We moved on to our AGM running swiftly through the agenda we reached the election of officers, all previous committee members re-elected with the exception of James Camfield who is stepping down with Kevin Armstrong joining in his place. Anyone out there who feels they could add another voice would be more than welcome.

Once again during the winter months we will be running a couple of training courses. Firstly, City and Guilds CS31

Fell and Process Small Trees. To join this course you must have previously attended and passed CS30.1 and CS30.2

Chainsaw Maintenance and Crosscutting. If there is enough demand we may be able to run this course also.

Secondly we will be running a First Aid course. These courses are well subsidised by Headquarters so a great

opportunity to gain a further qualification and save your club some cash. Further details from Gerald Bruce,

Email: gerald@berkhamstedge.co.uk

The winter/xmas meeting is to be held at South Beds GC on December 8, usual Texas Scramble format, shotgun start at 9.30. Entry forms should be with you shortly so as always for this event get them in early to avoid disappointment.

Thats all for now!

Nigel Phelan

win a **KIOTI** Mechron!

To celebrate the launch of the brand-new Kioti Mechron 2210, RECO are offering readers of Greenkeeper International the chance to win one of your very own!

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Enter online at:
www.reco.co.uk/win
quoting 'Greenkeeper International' on your entry form



Surrey

Wednesday October 5. It's just two months since I hung up the van keys and took up residence in the Old People's home in Banstead. The foods OK, but the sponge baths are not what I expected, so I'm going to do a runner tonight when matron is asleep.

Just another example of the dreams I have been having since I started collecting wild mushrooms for a hobby. The book in which the safe fungi are described, I bought in a charity shop but as most of the pictures are missing, it's no wonder that I have decided to go back to Waitrose.

Tony Bremer has just sent an email requesting that if anyone is looking to replace their old rotary rough mower, he will be interested in taking it of their hands. Roger Tydeman's reply 'got a Flymo' was not helpful, although amusing, and is probably a better offer than my scissor suggestion. Please, if anyone can help with a machine, or a flock of sheep, Tony will be delighted to hear from you.

Dave Worner, greenkeeper extraordinaire, is taking six months leave from his job at Hindhead GC to explore Australia. When he returns I will interview him and report to you, in this very magazine, about his adventures. I am expecting tales of 'daring do' in the style of 'Crocodile Dundee' but the truth may be stranger than fiction. Only time will tell.

Thursday October 6. The final of the Surrey Bowl took place at Foxhills GC today. After an interesting and very sporting match the winners who were three up after nine holes and won two and one were Dan Murray, from the Roehampton Club, and Neil McDonald, from Wentworth GC. The worthy runners up were Gavin Kyle, Knole Park GC, and Richard Fortmuller. Many thanks to the sponsors of this year's Surrey Bowl, Tacit Golf Course Equipment, whose representative and semi retired yours truly, presented the Surrey Bowl Trophy and the cash prizes. Dave Wyborn,

Course Manager at Foxhills, joined us for the last few holes and the meal afterwards. Many thanks to Dave and Foxhills GC for again providing an excellent venue.

The National Championship Competition was won by Surrey member Jason Hunt, Addington Palace GC, with in second place another Surrey greenkeeper Kevin Boxall, Guildford GC. That elegant and one time Surrey member, Douglas Iolanthe Fernie, a personal friend and former Surrey Bowl partner, won his handicap section. I was pleased that the many tips I have given to him over the many years are now paying off.

Steve Bush, Mechanic at St Georges Hill GC, and that legend in formula lawn mower racing, has once again taken his team, 'Stroke by Pussy Cats', to first place, in group 2 rollers, in the 12 hour ordeal race at Five Oaks in Sussex. Starting at 7pm on September 24 his team completed 299 laps [250 miles] with three drivers. The 'Pussy Cats', dressed in their best leopard skins, came 11th overall and all money made was donated to charity.

This is the sort of information and news that I need so let me know yours or else its back to my favourite Isle.

Brian Willmott
07879474038. email brian.willmott@hotmail.co.uk



Essex

With only just two weeks to go before the South East Regional Conference on Wednesday, November 16, at Stock Brook The Country Club, and being held by our Section. It is time (if you have not already done so) to get your reservation in. Places are limited for this event and with the quality of speakers on offer, a call to Clive on 07841-948.410 or 01737-819.343 is essential to reserve your seat. Tickets are free to Essex Section members £10 to guests and other members.

Darren Baldwin, Tottenham Hotspur FC; Peter Craig, Essex County Cricket Club; Richard Whyman, Burnham & Berrow

Golf Club; Stuart Kerrison, The Hurlingham Club; Greg Evans, Ealing Golf Club.

Talk on the way they manage the varying conditions they encounter through out there playing seasons and how they tackle the different heights of cut to achieve the best out of their turf.

This will be followed by a question and answer session, when you can put your views to the lecturers and seek some answers to your niggling problems. Plus you will have a chance to meet and speak to our new BIGGA Chief Executive, Jim Croxton.

This event has been sponsored by the following companies:

Amenity Technology; Bailey's of Norfolk; Banks Amenity Products; Blade Amenity; CMW Equipment Ltd; Collier Turf Care; Ernest Doe & Sons; GM Amenity; Golf Mats UK; Headland Amenity Products; Irrigation & Water; Limagrains UK; Old Forge Mowers; Otley College; Payne's Turf; Philip Liverton Ltd; P. Tuckwell Ltd; Premier Plan; Prime Irrigation; Rainbird Europe; Rigby Taylor Ltd; Everis (Scotts Professional); Sheriff Amenity; Town & Country Turf Ltd; Sea Nymph Chaingreen; Tey Farm Systems; WJ Green Ltd and Writtle College.

We would also like to thank Stock Brook The Country Club and owner, Terry Peachey, for the use of their fine facilities.

The destination of the Essex BIGGA Autumn Trophy was Langdon Hills Golf and Country Club, and weather conditions couldn't have been any better. The course was in fantastic condition thanks to Course Manager, Tony Dunston and his team of greenkeepers.

Some of the scoring was very impressive with the overall winner being Liam Springett, Stoke by Nayland, with 39 pts, Category 2 was occupied by two Channels contingents, Richard Dunmow with 38 pts and Malcolm Smith 37 pts.

In Category 1 first position went to Tom Smith, Colne Valley, with 29 pts and second place went to Andy Toomey, Boyce Hill, with 23 pts. Trade was won by Neil Peachey, Tuckwells, and the best guest was won Steve Crosdale 36 pts. Longest Drive was won by Liam Springett and Nearest the Pin by Simon Bartrum (guest).

A massive thank you to Lang-

don Hills for their hospitality and we look forward to our next golf day which is also the AGM at Orsett Golf Club, on Tuesday, December 6. Entry's close on November 30 for this team event, entry fee is £66 per team of four (at least two players must be Section Members) or £16.50 for individuals, who will then be teamed up by Andy.

Don't forget the Regional Conference, being held in our Section on the Wednesday, November 16. Details on our website.

If you have anything for inclusion in Greenkeeper International or on the Section's Website www.essexbigga.co.uk please contact me on 07764-862.337 or at essexbigga@talktalk.net

Arnold Phipps-Jones

South West and South Wales



South Wales

Wow what a weekend! Record temperatures and un-broken sunshine. Isn't it funny how two years can be completely different, Last year, at the same time I was swimming at times during the Ryder Cup, and this year swimming in the sea at Rest Bay on October 1! Who knows what's to come next.

Come on Wales hopefully when you guys get to read this we can call ourselves Rugby's World Champions! (Afraid not this time, Peter! - Ed) Safely through to the quarters I think we'd have comfortably beaten the Irish, and maybe drawn the English in the semi. We would then try to do what the Welsh greenkeepers can't and beat them.

Who's knows what can happen. Dan Carter, arguably the best rugby player of all time (behind our greats of course) unfortunately out, even the unbeatable All Blacks look a little fragile...

The Rigby Taylor Matchplay final. Thank you to Dave Carvey and Peter Griffiths, of Rigby Taylor, for being fantastic hosts and putting on a fantastic final day held at Green Meadow Golf

Club. The final four pairings battled out the semi final in the morning with Daryl Jones and Steve Chappell winning through along with Mark Anderton and Paul Handy to make the final. Clive Moran and myself, Huw Morgan and, straight down the middle, Andy Roach unfortunately tied for third place, Leaving the top boys to fight it out. Lunch was had and after a few arguments it was agreed that Daryl and Steve would receive 11 shots. Could Paul and Mark overhaul such a margin? Being 5 up at the turn Steve and Daryl looked home and dry but the boys battled back they pulled one then two then three shots back.

Never seen Steve show any signs of nerves before but, believe me, there were! Eventually Steve and Daryl hung on to record a 2&1 victory, but well done to Paul and Mark for such a great effort. Well done all.

Our AGM and Autumn comp has been held at Trefloyne Golf Club. Please read next month's magazine for results and news from the AGM.

The Regional Seminar this year is to be held at The Oak-tree Centre, just off Jct 22 M5 Burnham on Sea turn off, on November 17. We have a fantastic array of speakers for the day.

Craig Richardson, Bristol City Football Club; Chris Haspel, Castle Stuart Golf Club; Huw Morgan, Ashburnham Golf Club; Mark Hunt, Headland Amenity, and Cale Bigalow, of the USA

It will be a fantastic day so if as many of us can attend it will be hugely to be benefit.

Thanks for reading guys.
Peter Holmstrom



South West

Just recently we had another fantastic golf day! This time we visited Cotswold Hills G.C, home of Section Team Captain, Wayne Vincent. I honestly have to say that this could have been one of the best Section events we have had in a little while, the course was in amazing condition, from tee to green very everything was clean...!

We were also very well sup-

ported by you guys, so thank you to everyone that made an appearance.

Having been our AGM, this made this event even more important to us, the minutes are now available for you, please drop me an e-mail and I will happily forward them on.

With the competition winners being, Nearest the Pin at the 9th, Zack Brooks. Nearest the Pin at the 15th, Craig Swindle. Overall winners' Third, on countback, Elliott Nicholls, 33 pts. Second, John Keenaghan, 35 pts; First, Craig Swindle, 36 pts.

As I mentioned this was our AGM, this is the time of year that people are nominated for your committee, The roles are as followed, Chairman, Chris Sealey; Secretary, Adam Matthews; Treasurer, Nobby Knight; Education, Paul Worster; Fixtures, Tim Morgan; Team Captain, Wayne Vincent; Vice Captain, Paul Garland; Regional Board. John Keenaghan and Jamie Acton; Somerset Representative, Roger Neale; Trade Representative, Sam Honeybourne, Countrywide.

I would also like to welcome Jaey Goodchild to the committee. Jaey, coming from Richmond GC, in Surrey, but now calling Bowood GC his home. Welcome Jaey, we all very much look forward to you becoming involved.

We also have a new facebook page for the South West Section, one that will make it much more convenient for you all to use, you don't having to do anything, just enjoy this amazing feature you have at your finger tips.

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

See you all very soon,
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South Coast

Welcome to the latest South Coast column, I hope all your



Jim Croxton
Chief Executive

Last month I had the privilege of spending two days at the West Lancashire Golf Club for the BIGGA National Championship. The Course Manager, John Muir, and his team presented the historic venue in immaculate condition for a tournament featuring nearly a hundred of his peers while Mother Nature did her best to make sure finding John's superb greens was no mean feat.

The event presented a golden opportunity to spend time in the company of so many BIGGA members in a relaxed, yet competitive, environment and naturally the conversations held were wide and varied.

There was one topic though that seemed to be prominent in nearly every discussion: communication. It is clear that to ensure that golfers, club officials and owners understand the importance of the work our members do in providing well maintained golf courses year in year out we need to ably communicate with all parties.

This communication has traditionally tended to focus on conveying what has been done rather than in managing people's understanding and expectations of what needs to happen to ensure playing surfaces remain good and continue to improve.

To understand the importance of the work our members do in providing well maintained golf courses year in year out we need to ably communicate with all parties

One conversation I had was a prime example - a BIGGA member explained how following some routine aeration, the professional at his club had been explaining to the members that the greenkeeper had ruined the hitherto excellent greens and that the course was now not worth playing.

This message to the club members could have been conveyed in a much more positive light if the greenkeeper in question had taken the time to communicate in advance to both the professional and the membership the reasons for the aeration and how it was a vital part in producing such good greens in the first place.

As our discussion in the West Lancs clubhouse continued fellow BIGGA members pointed out the importance of giving consideration to the impact their work has on other departments in the golf club.

Different people had differing views on how best to communicate with their colleagues and club members but the consensus was that we can definitely all improve. I believe that BIGGA needs to focus on helping its members to communicate at all levels and this will be a priority for us over the coming months. As we know from the Bulletin Boards there is rarely a problem that one or more of our members don't know the solution to and I am convinced that if we harness some of the good communication practice already being utilised across our membership we can make things better for us all.

Jim Croxton

early winter work is going well.

The autumn outing was held on October 6, at Waterloo Golf Club, in a day of sunshine and showers which was enjoyed by 35 entrants.

A special mention must go out to Head Greenkeeper, Bob Good, and his staff for a course presented in the best possible condition especially as I am informed they are achieved this with only three staff.

Also a big thank you to the Captain & Council of Waterloo for allowing us the courtesy of the course for the day.

The results for the day were as follows: Cat 1 0-14. 1. L. Elgie, 38 pts; 2. M. Gray, 37 pts; 3. K. Tigg, 36 pts. Cat 2 15-28. 1. K. Glass, 38 pts; 2. R. Cooper, 37 pts; 3. M. Guilliver, 36 pts. N.P. K. Tigg, L.D. Oliver

Your AGM took place after the outing with the committee giving all their various reports. A couple of points worth reporting were Chris Bitten has decided to stand down as Section Secretary but has decided to remain on committee, Chris was thanked for all his hard work in this difficult role.

Alex Macombie was proposed and seconded as your new Secretary and I am sure you will all welcome Alex back into a post he has held before and I know will continue to do a great job.

He can be contacted regarding any Section matters at southcoastsectionsecretary@gmail.com.

It was reported during the meeting that the cost of the postage (£90 per outing) could no longer be absorbed by the Section funds. So it was agreed that each outing would go up in price to cover the postage.

The conference due to go ahead last month was cancelled because our main speaker, Jim McKenzie, was picking up his MBE from the Queen on the very same day.

The conference will now go ahead at Milton Abbey School, on Wednesday, February 15, with our two main speakers being the aforementioned Mr. McKenzie and Cameron McMillan, of Queenwood fame.

Talking of conferences I hope to see a few of you along at the Regional Conference on the 17th of this month. It is being held at a new venue this year – The Oak Tree Arena, Highbridge, which is just off junction 22 off the M5 this will hopefully make it a bit

easier as you won't have the Bridgewater traffic to contend with.

Still on regional matters our RA Jane Jones has arranged another excellent accommodation package for BTME this is a 3 x nights B&B sharing a twin room at the Cairn Hotel for £121.50 per person.

For details for both of these events please contact Jane on 07841 948110 or email jane@bigga.co.uk.

That's it for this month hope to see some of you at Highpost GC next month for the Turkey Trot and remember it's a Texas Scramble this year so you will need a three man team. If you require teaming up please contact Kevan Glass, on 07746 148650. Details of this event will be with you shortly.

Robert Hogarth



Devon and Cornwall

Hello all members. On Wednesday, October 5 our Section's AGM was held at Portmore Golf Park, near Barnstaple, North Devon. A total of 50 attendees enjoyed either an Individual Stableford Golf competition or a Course walk led by Colin Webber, Director, and Josh Webber, Course Manager at Portmore Golf Park. Colin and Josh have worked tirelessly to make Portmore one of the most sustainably managed Golf Clubs in the country. This hard work was rewarded back in January with the Club winning the "Overall Achievement Award" in the STRI Golf Environment Awards 2011.

Colin and Josh explained how every area of the business has been audited to ensure that maximum economic efficiency is achieved, environmental impact is reduced and the overall carbon footprint is reduced. Areas including lighting, electrical timers, rain-water harvesting and waste management have all been addressed and improved.

One of the most interesting areas is how they now produce their own compost from waste accumulated by the business and have a process where by the end product is used to produce

compost tea used on the greens.

A variety of composting procedures are used to create a diversity of biology. One of these processes includes a worm bin, "vermi-composting", which is fascinating and proving to be very successful. I'm sure that all those who attended the course walk, found it extremely interesting and inspiring.

The golf and "Don Hunt Trophy" was won by Anthony "Jacko" James, Killiow; Second was Lloyd Overy, Lakeview; Third Mark Tucker, Saunton. Nearest the Pin was won by Graham Clarke, Chumleigh, and Longest drive was won by Adrian West, St Mellion. Congratulations to all the winners and all those who took part. Many thanks to the sponsors for the day, Avoncrop Amenity and Sibelco.

John Palfrey, from Avoncrop, presented the prizes on behalf of the two sponsors.

After lunch, the AGM took place in the clubhouse. Reports were given by Tim Wakeham, President; Steve Harris, Treasurer; George Pitts, Secretary, and Jane Jones, Regional Representative.

The Section has had an extremely successful year with many accolades bestowed on its members. Congratulations to all members and thank you for your continued support.

Huge thanks to the Webber family for their faultless hospitality and for such a wonderful day!

Our second meeting of the year will be at Carlyon Bay, on Wednesday, November 9. Again, golf or a course walk, lunch followed by an educational presentation by Paul Morris, GBR Technology. Paul, will be giving a presentation on wetting agents. Paul graduated with a Masters from Oxford and has many years of experience working with and developing surfactant-based products.

The Christmas meeting this year will be held at Ashbury Golf Club, Okehampton on Thursday, December 15. Format will be the golf or course walk followed by Christmas lunch and entertainment in the afternoon. Accommodation will be available at a reduced rate if required.

Roger Davey, Irritech Ltd, will be running an "Irrigation Workshop" at Torquay Golf Club on Thursday, November 24. The

Workshop will be free to the first 20 Devon and Cornwall BIGGA Members to put their name down.

There will also be a "Sprayer Update Course" to be held at Launceston Golf Club, date to be advised.

If you are interested in any of the above events or courses, please contact me ASAP.

George Pitts
Section Secretary
Bigga Devon & Cornwall
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BIGGA welcomes the following new members

Scotland

Scotland
Lachlan Imrie, East
Michael Buxton, East
Craig Pollock, East
Douglas Clubb, North
Anthony O'Connor, North
Graeme Conlan, West
Kevin Prince, West

Northern Region

Harry Carvey, North East
Lewis Hill, North East
Andrew Phillips, North West
Andrew Sioane, North West
Lee Frost, Northern
Nik Blesic, Northern
Steve Woods, Northern
Joel Marsh, Northern
Adam Hepworth, Northern
Paul Legg, Cleveland

Midland Region

Luke Jackson, East Midland
James Patrick McShane, East Midland
Martin Jones, Midland
Robert Taylor, Midland
Adam Worrall, Midland
David Jones, Midland
David Stewart, Midland
Mark Oglesby, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Dean Davis, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Keith Simkin, Mid Anglia
John Lewis, Mid Anglia
Chris Trimble, Mid Anglia
Ian Coote, Mid Anglia
Scott Parnell, Mid Anglia

South East Region

Charlie Simpson, Surrey
Tom Smart, Surrey
Stephen Coates, Surrey
Robert Clark, Kent
Tyler Burkin, Kent
David Timms, Sussex
Daniel Perkins, London
Justin Howard, Essex

South West/South Wales

Gerald Clements, South West
Peter Corrick, South West
Ben Dollyer, South Coast
Robert Hancock, South Coast
Jamie Tredwell, South Coast
Richard Keith, South Coast
Andrew Burgess, South Wales
Andrew Edmunds, South Wales
Daniel Herbert, South Wales
Benjamin Smith, South Wales

Overseas

Gareth Bremner, Germany

For more information on new members log in to the Members' Area of the BIGGA Website.