



South Wales

Our summer tournament this year was held at Wenvoe Castle Golf Club. It was a really good day with 24 golfers playing and 26 eating. We were joined on the day by Club Captain, Tony Cumming, who was very welcoming and our RA, Jane Jones, who toured the course on a buggy with Iain Grant.

The golf course was in great shape thanks to Mark Wilshire and his team so well done to them. The weather was good in the main apart from a few sharp showers. The meal following the golf was first class. Steve Minton, from Tacit, was on hand to present the prizes as follows: 1. Andy Roach, 37pts; 2. Rhys Williams, 34pts; 3. Steve Chappell, 33pts. Best Trade/Guest: Peter Lacey, 31pts. Nearest the Pin: Tony Lafrate. Longest Drive: Ian Kinley

Mr Captain was presented with a BIGGA Tie as a thank you for Wenvoe hosting the event.

Just a quick reminder of our up and coming events the R/T final at Green Meadow which take place on September 16 and a reminder that the Autumn Comp & AGM will be at Trefloyno on October 14.

Our very own Daryl Jones, from Glyn Neath Golf Club, has become their Club Champion. Congratulations from everyone at the Section.

Last, but by no means least, I hope I get to see many of you guys at Saltex this year Sept 6-8. You know where our stand is situated - by the park and main eating area. So if you pop by, I might just get some beers in!

See you soon

Peter Holmstrom and, mainly this month, Steve Chappell.



South Coast

Hi, all,

It's pouring with rain as I write this which is a perfect excuse for not being outside. Much needed rain, I must add, as it has been

seriously warm over the last few days. My beach hut has welcomed many visitors recently, some of whom even ventured into the water!

Our summer invitation competition was played at Brokenhurst Manor Golf Club. Although the sun didn't shine, the few spots of rain certainly didn't dampen the day. The course was in excellent order and a credit to our tournament organiser, Kevan Glass and his team. Truly faultless. Sponsor for the day was Tacit. Thanks as always to Tim Webb and Brian Wilmott for their support and prizes of some very good wine. The competition was an 18 hole Stableford with ¾ handicap allowance, 60 entrants.

1. Ben Bishop & C. Richards, Paultons Park, 42 pts; 2. Colin Pardey & Sandy Barnett, Sherbourne, 41ps; 3. Derek Cunliffe & James Norris, Blackmore, 40 pts. Nearest the String; Tony Locke. Nearest the Pin; Scott Waddingham.

The annual match against the South West will be played in late August, the results of which will be in next month's mag. Our next competition and AGM is at Waterloo GC, on October 6. I have heard great reports from people that played there recently so try and support the Section and be there.

Here at Barton it's all happening again, more cliff falling into the sea and plans to move one hole 50 metres inland. Not really a problem, except that it involves moving a green, two tees and all the relevant irrigation pipe work. Meanwhile we are having the silt from one of our ponds removed. A real health and safety nightmare as there are thousands of golf balls in the sludge and, no matter what you say to the members, the sight of free balls is too tempting. So the nice new signs warning of deep mud "Keep Out" are totally ignored.

Lastly, the Section Seminar, cancelled from February, is now to go ahead on October 26, at Milton Abbey School, in Dorset. This is a new venue and should be an excellent educational day out with top notch speakers along with walks around the livestock and school facilities.

Until next month.
Tony Gadd



Jim Croxton
Chief Executive

I have recently had the opportunity to attend a couple of BIGGA Regional Board meetings and it has been heartening to discover that so many members are prepared to give up their time to play a part in the Association's governance.

As a committee based organisation it is vital that information, opinion and debate is channelled effectively from the coal face of the Sections through Regional Boards to the National Board to keep the activities of BIGGA relevant to the needs of the members.

At both of the meetings there was healthy debate on a wide variety of issues, with communication and education being recurring themes. These two tenets are prevalent in what I consider to be one of the key benefits to BIGGA membership – the website Bulletin Boards. Every day members post enquiries and discussion points that are read by hundreds and in nearly every instance the responses are well reasoned and informative and prove helpful to both the original contributor and the many others facing similar issues at their facilities. I am a huge advocate of sharing best practice and the BIGGA Bulletin Boards are a fantastic example of the willingness that practitioners in this industry have to help one another. Access to this massive well of knowledge and experience is a major benefit of BIGGA membership and I would urge anyone who has not ventured in to the member's area of www.bigga.org.uk to do so. In future editions of this magazine we will endeavour to focus on some of the many success stories this forum has produced.

The more public face of our members sharing best practice is the annual gathering in Harrogate for the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition (BTME), registration for 2012 is open so go to www.harrogateweek.org.uk to register now. You will see elsewhere in these pages details of the education programme and, for the first time visitor, how to get there and plan your stay.

BTME is the important event in the calendar for all those in the golf course maintenance industry, we are fortunate that the exhibition continues to be well supported by the manufacturers, suppliers and contractors who value spending time face to face with our membership and many others involved in sports turf care. We as an association need to show them our support by encouraging all of our friends and colleagues in the industry to attend the event.

In the News section earlier you will have read of the outcomes of discussions with the IOG and the AEA over the future of grounds and turf care trade shows. In objectively looking at our own show it was clear that whilst overlap exists with other shows, it is a small part of the overall picture. The discussions were positive and all sides are very comfortable with the outcome which will see BIGGA looking to collaborate with all of the other bodies in the sector as widely as possible. An excellent example is the BIGGA organised educational seminars taking place at the IOG's show – Saltex – this month from which I expect to see greenkeepers and groundsmen alike taking valuable knowledge and information to help them in their day to day working lives.

Jim Croxton