

Section Notes

Please email your notes to steve.castle@bigga.co.uk by the 15th of the month

All the latest news from your Section

Around The Green



CENTRAL

Twenty-three members attended the seminar given by Richard Windows of the STRI which preceded the Section AGM at Elmwood on 30 October.

Outgoing Chairman Derek Robson thanked all the members for their support and in particular that of the Trade and the various office bearers on the Committee who had done so much of the organising and had helped him through his two year term of office.

Thanks were also given to Andy Mellon for his contribution to the Section over the years prior to his departure to Qatar.

The Section was in a healthy way financially and the Committee were determined to continue to try and provide educational opportunities.

They were also looking to take on board some of comments provided by the survey carried out earlier in the year.

Bob Meilke of Craig Golfing Society was elected as the new Chairman and Shaun Anderson of Piperdam GC was elected as Vice Chairman.

Gordon Moir continues as Secretary/Treasurer and Derek Robson takes on the role of Past Chairman while the rest of the Committee remains as was.

More details are on the website www.standrews.org.uk.

Kenny Mitchell and Scott Mackintosh of St Andrews won the Pairs competition for 2012 and this will be held again next year.

The two members of the Section who won this year's Scottish Patrons awards are Paul Armour of Lochgelly GC and Stuart Greenshields of Gleneagles.

This year we asked members to write in to the committee and give reasons why they should

be selected to receive this award which is a trip to BTME so well done to Paul and Stuart.

There are still 3 places available on the one day irrigation course on 12 December so if anyone has a change of heart when reading this please get in touch to check if that is still the case.

Finally, our congratulations to Andy O'Hara of Leven Links who has been elected Chairman of the Scottish Region of BIGGA.

Gordon Moir



EAST

Welcome to my first report for our GI Magazine as your new section Chairman.

Sadly I start on a sad note with the news that former Head Greenkeeper of Dunbar Golf Club, Graham Wood, sadly passed away on Friday 9 November, our thoughts are with his family at this time.

The section held its 26th AGM recently at Gifford Golf Club, a big thank you goes to Aitkens Seed-man our sponsor on the day and our thanks also to Jamie Martin (Head Greenkeeper) and the council of Gifford GC for the generous use of their facilities on the day.

The day started off with the unusually relentless rain and wind, it was suggested on the day that the Haddington area could have been twinned with New York at the time of hurricane Sandy!

It was agreed that the golfing part of our day where we contest the Jimmy Neilson Trophy over 9 holes of stableford golf would be postponed until Saturday 24th November, all members are welcome to attend and can confirm their place on the day by contacting the section secretary or myself.

The turnout at our AGM was low but all went well, thanks go

to our outgoing chairman for the past 4 years Stuart Crawford, Stuart has carried out the post over and above the call of duty and we wish him well and thank him for his hard work over his term.

We have a couple of further changes to our section committee, with George Oliver standing down, our thanks go to George for his time and hard work and we wish you well in the future.

We have some young blood added to our section committee in the form of Jamie Martin (Head Greenkeeper, Gifford GC), welcome aboard Jamie, we wish you well and hope you enjoy your time on our committee.

The Section would like to thank all the Patrons for their continued support throughout the year, I can confirm the Patron Award winners are Grant Moran (Mortonhall GC) and Derek McLeod (Braid Hills GC), well done guys, we hope you enjoy your Harrogate Experience and we look forward to reading all about it in your Patrons Award Report.

On 6 November we held an education event at Turnhouse Golf Club kindly sponsored by Tour-Spec Grinding, again the turnout was low, but all who attended felt it well worthwhile and gained valuable insight into grinding techniques and the benefits of Enviro-Bunker, If any members have any suggestions for any education events or are interested in hosting a golf event then all feedback will be welcomed indeed.

A note for your diary guys, our spring meeting will be held at Seahouses Golf Club on 23 April 2013, anyone interested can confirm their place by contacting our secretary and if we can get enough confirmed interest we are looking to put a bus on for the trip down.

Please remember and get in touch if anyone is wanting information posted in next months report.

Take care and Merry Christ-

mas ho ho ho (got to get it in early!).

Scott Corrigan



WEST

The last few weeks have been slightly better than the usual with some cold winds and not quite as much rainy stuff except if you are further down the country, even the east coast appear to be suffering somewhat with more growth and softer conditions, however we are now into December and Christmas will shortly be with us.

What a thought, where does the year seem to have gone? I think most people would like to see the back of this year and a bright new future ahead but sadly they tell me our predictions of wetter summers and milder winters may well be the norm, god forbid.

A few weeks back now I was playing in the National tournament at Irvine Bogside which is a fairly uncharacteristic links course and couldn't believe how good the course was and how dry it was, well done to Derek Wilson and his team for producing a superb test of golf, one which challenges the mind to the extreme.

I had the pleasure of playing with Douglas McIntosh on the final day and Paul from the Liverpool area both good golfers and very good company, well done to Scotland for winning the team event on day one.

The whole event was a great experience and I would encourage anybody to enter next year as the tournament is well worth the money and you meet up with new people from all over the country.

The AGM held at Hags Castle seemed to go well although I did hear a few people raised some very topical questions regarding outings, unfortunately only 22

people turned up on the day, which seems to be the standard number these days.

The attendees were treated to talks from Sherriff Amenity who sponsored the day, supplied food, and those who wished went out for a few holes.

John Brown stepped down as Chairman and Gerry Bruen takes over the helm, so we wish him well for the future and thanks go to John for all his work during his time in charge.

Gavin Jarvis has also stepped down as treasurer and Fraser will resume those duties along with the Secretary's role as Gavin used to do, best wishes to Gavin and thanks for all his time and help over a fairly long period 10 years possibly, well done and I hope all goes well for the future.

One of the main points raised during the proceedings related to people turning up on the day and paying, this will not be possible in future and will not be accepted as payment will be required two weeks in advance of the event to allow a draw to be made.

Payment is now possible through a bank account on line or by cheque as usual.

Committee now consists of Gerry Bruen (chairman), no vice chairman, John Brown (past chairman), David McBride (education), Fraser Ross (secretary/treasurer), Brian Hillan (handicap), Stuart Taylor (magazine), should anyone have any queries about things they can contact those relevant members.

The Association would like to thank Hags Castle golf club for assisting us with a venue and Scott Ballantyne for allowing the guys a few holes later on, cheers.

Recently on visiting Alex McDougal mowers I heard Bob Stevenson had been admitted to hospital with suspected heart attack I hope he is now recovering and in good form, may I also congratulate Jennifer on her recent wedding, best wishes for the future.

On behalf of the west section could I congratulate Graham O'Connor and his wife Jennie on the birth this summer of a fine baby girl Lexi apparently 7lb 6ozs born on the 2nd July at the Royal infirmary, having spoken to Graham the family are doing well, best wishes for the future to them both and hopefully not too many sleepless nights.

Congratulations also to John Clelland on his recent new appointment of Head Greenkeeper at Paisley Bushes, John has moved from Elderslie golf

club where the association had an outing a few years back, we wish him well in his new post.

May I thank all the patrons for their support through the year especially those in the west section, your continued participation in this scheme is extremely valuable and the section thanks you very much for assisting in the years proceedings.

The casual evening out in town is arranged for the 30th November so I will report on this in next month's issue, in the meantime I would like to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and all the best for next season, I look forward to catching up with a few people at Harrogate.

By the time you read this my role as Chairman of Scotland will have finished, but I would like to express my thanks to all those on the Scottish Board for their support and help during my time in office and state how much I enjoyed the challenge of obtaining the standard required to promote the association in the best possible light, I hope I was able to accomplish this over my two years.

I would congratulate Andy O'Hara on becoming the new chairman and wish him the best of luck during his two year tenure.

Finally, if anyone has information to convey to me please contact me on 01419 425554 or 07790 823914, or stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com I will be at your disposal.

Regards
Stuart Taylor



NORTH

After some changes in the committee set up Robert and I have now taken over the section news.

We would like to pass on our sincere thanks to Ross Macrae for doing the report this year.

The committee would like to start by offering an apology to our members for their not being any news for a month or two this was not our fault just a breakdown in communication with head office and some other issues.

Right on with the news we will start with the Autumn outing at Grantown-on-Spey the winners are as follows; Nearest the pin at the 8th Billy Craig (Kirriemuir) , 11th Paul Sharp (Peterculter)

and 16th Mike Keay (Tarbat).

Moving on to the sweep in 4th place was Patrick Wood (Newmachar) 3rd Neil Sadler (Portlethen) 2nd Pat Allan (Symbio) and 1st Steve Macrae (Deeside).

Guest Winner was Donald Urquhart and the Trade winner was Pat Allan from (Symbio) our own committee winner was Paul Sharp (Peterculter).

The Veterans winner was Billy Craig (Kirriemuir) runner up Hugh McLatchie (Peterhead).

Apprentice winner was Jack Craig (Royal Aberdeen).

Moving on to Class 3 and in 3rd Dale Robertson (Newmachar) 2nd Scott Davidson (Newmachar) and 1st Ross Duncan (Hazlehead).

Class 2; in 3rd Billy Craig (Kirriemuir) 2nd Stewart Brown (Royal Aberdeen) and 1st Steve Macrae (Deeside).

Class 1; 3rd Derek Green 2nd Patrick Wood (Newmachar) 1st Neil Sadler (Portlethen).

Scratch; Runner up George Mitchell (Newmachar), winner Neil Sadler (Portlethen).

The Mark Main Trophy which is the best Nett score from both outings was won by Neil Sadler from Portlethen so well done to all the winners.

The Committee would like to pass on their thanks to Kenny Kinnaird and his staff for the great condition of the golf course.

The season is now drawing to a close and everybody will be starting their winter programmes.

The weather has been slightly better through November so that we can get projects started.

We held our AGM at Newburgh GC on 25 October with 24 people attending.

We had mixed weather for a game of golf and some soup and sandwiches for lunch before our AGM.

Our thanks go to Newburgh GC for the use of their facilities and to Jim Peace and his staff for the use of his course which was in very good condition.

Some other backdated section news - we would like to welcome Mark Campbell who is the new Head Greenkeeper at Fortrose and Rosermarkie Golf Club to our section and we hope to catch up with him at some point.

Mark joins us from the Devon and Cornwall section.

The section would also like to pass on best wishes to Stuart Grant who has left Ballater Golf Club after many years service and joined Colin Forbes and the staff at Aboyne so all the best Stuart.

We would also like to pass on best wishes to Richard Pirie of Newmachar Golf Club who had to have an operation on his eye and has been off work for a while so get well soon Richard.

Congratulations to Chris Watson of Peterculter golf club on finishing as a runner up in the Toro student greenkeeper of the year.

Chris wins an all-expenses paid trip to Harrogate for the trade show and I am sure his boss Paul Sharp will look after him.

The two Patron Award winners this year are George Mitchell from Newmachar Golf Club and Paul Sharp from Peterculter Golf Club so well done to them both, their prize is also an all-expenses paid trip to BTME.

Next year our Spring outing is not yet confirmed but hopefully will be at Duff house Royal but I have got the Autumn outing confirmed and it will be at Edzell golf club on Tuesday 24th Sept 2013.

Harrogate is not far off and hopefully there will be a good turnout from the North section and we will all meet up again.

The Chairman and committee of the North section would like to wish all our members a merry xmas and happy new year.

Regards Dale Robertson 07784517534 and Robert Patterson 07931639548.

NORTHERN REGION



NORTH EAST

At this time of the year I always find it difficult to write section news as it's hard to come by at the best of times but I do try and have something in every month.

Firstly I want to welcome all the new members that have joined the section - and there's been quite a lot.

This is mainly due to visits by myself and the new Regional Administrator Sandra Raper to introduce first-hand what's available and the benefits of joining BIGGA to non-members; and of course calling at golf clubs where we have members to ask they had any views to share with us.

The outcome was eight new members at Longhirst Hall, Dunstanburgh Castle, Alnwick and Ponteland plus a couple via the club route at Tynemouth

Around The Green

and Prudhoe. We also recruited some former members, so altogether we have sixteen members extra. It just goes to show what you can achieve by paying a visit. It's hoped that over the coming months that there will be further visits which have to be mapped out carefully as we try and visit five or six clubs at a time.

Other news is the appointment of a new Head Greenkeeper at Whitley Bay who is David Wilkinson formerly of Windermere Golf Club.

We wish him well in his new job.

David and I first met in the late 80s during the The National Greenkeepers Championships and I met him this year at his home course during The John Deere qualifier.

I think he will find that it doesn't rain as much there as it does in the North East on average.

OK, that's it for the time being.

There should be no news in January's edition; I hope most of you will visit BTME and take advantage of the free courses that will be available during your one day trip or to the luckier ones whose club will send them to attend other courses.



NORTHERN

Good afternoon chaps.

It's a very sad note I start with I'm afraid.

Our condolences go to the family of Mark Pearson, Course Manager of the Manor Golf Club who was involved in a fatal accident on the M6.

Nothing more I can say other than our thoughts go to his wife and daughter.

Hard to follow that but I will try.

It is with great pleasure that the northern section team of myself, Dave Collins and Simon Rothwell won the intersection trophy at Bingley St.Ives.

A great day indeed had by all and many thanks to the top man Alan Baxter and his team for setting up a demanding but lovely course, strong winds made life tricky but local knowledge and a bit of luck won us the day.

A big thanks to Bingley for their hospitality, Sandra Raper

and Elaine Jones from HQ for looking after us and the organising of the event

Congratulations go to another top bloke on the birth of his 2nd child, Richard Smith and her indoors have a lovely little lad called Joshua who are both doing well, fantastic.

I made my way back to my old stomping ground of South Yorkshire last month for our regional conference at the Phoenix Golf club in Rotherham.

It was another good day out, very interesting speakers on good subjects.

Great also to meet up with guys I met at The Open and our chairman Tony Smith who is always great to chat with.

Last thing guys, in my last notes I mentioned a trip out to PB Kents was in the pipeline but after a poor response I will try again for you in spring.

Andy Slingsby
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andy.slingsby98@googlemail.com



NORTH WALES

Well it really is midwinter with cold starts and most of us starting in the dark; we're all looking forward to our Christmas break.

The Christmas tournament took place on 21 November at Oswestry golf club, as normal this month's column has to go to print before the actual day, so a full write-up on the day and any news that needs passing on from the AGM will be in January's issue, pictures of the day will be posted on our section Facebook group.

The intersection day took place at Bingley St Ives GC on 1 November and our team of Jez Hughes, Haydn Jones and Simon Ashford sportingly came in a creditable 6th out of 6 teams! We are still making an appeal for members' e-mail addresses and education requirements if you could all please forward your details to bnwales@hotmail.co.uk please.

The annual trip to Harrogate is hopefully running on Wednesday 23 January but this year we will only run the trip if we have enough seats booked to make the trip viable, so if you think you would like to go please contact myself or Jez to book your

seat as soon as possible.

It's a bargain as it's free to members and only £10 to non-members.

I hope you all have a great Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Pete Maybury

e-mail petemayb66@aol.com 07756001187 phone or text Facebook "North Wales B.I.G.G.A"



SHEFFIELD

It has arrived again.

The end of another year in our wonderful profession.

We will all be preparing ourselves for the festivities which I'm sure will involve lots of alcohol and food consumption (not necessarily in that order).

It is also a time to be thankful for what we have and reflect on what has happened to us over the past 12 months.

I guess it's time for us all to look at ourselves and think if we have given all we can over the year and what we can do to progress in the coming year.

We continue as an industry to strive to be better, to increase our reputation and improve the image of our industry.

If we all look at ourselves and improve on the last year we will all be making a difference.

Sheffield section recently had the pleasure of holding the Northern Region Conference held at Phoenix Sports and Social Club.

I must thank everyone at Phoenix for their first class service on the day and it was a pleasure for everyone who attended. The day was a massive success and all the speakers on the day were very informative and interesting. The day gave many greenkeepers the chance to network and discuss ideas with other greenkeepers from around the area. It was nice to see a few new faces from our section attend but as I have said before it would be nice to see many more in the coming year.

We held our Autumn competition at Rotherham GC - I would like to thank Dave and his staff for the excellent condition of the course apart from the pin places! The day was a fantastic success and everyone who played commented on the quality of the

course and the delicious meal afterwards. Interestingly the winners on the day came from Rotherham but I'm sure they played the best golf on the day.

The Trade prize on the day was won by Mike Brear. I would also like to thank Golf and Turf Machinery for their sponsorship on the day and the excellent prizes they supplied.

I must thank all our sponsors over the year without all their support we would struggle to hold any events and their support is appreciated.

I hope to be able to announce a lecture for the section in early 2013 soon and we will be having a section day out early next year, we have several options for the visit and places will be limited when the event is announced.

Anyway I'm sure you've heard enough - I hope you all have a fantastic Christmas and an even better New Year.

Jim Stevens



EAST MIDLAND

Tuesday 6 November marked the start of the BIGGA Regional Seminars.

This all kicked off at Forest Hill Golf Club in Leicestershire with an entertaining and informative line up of speakers.

The day was kindly sponsored by Richard Japes of Sports Metals who also provided an incredible selection of themed cupcakes which were demolished rather rapidly by the sixty plus attendees. The line-up of speakers through the day, superbly introduced by Rob Welford (Midland Regional Chairman), included Melvyn Taylor from Turfdry, Daniel Lightfoot MG from Bearwood Lakes, Jonathan Knowles and Lee Price from Myerscough College, Dr David Greenshields from Barenbrug and Lewis Blois introduced Everris' latest recruit Henry Bechelet who gave a virtuoso performance.

I'm pretty certain that a role in pantomime awaits Henry at some stage... "Oh no it doesn't...!" The day was well supported and offered members of the region an alternative to golf days and a chance to collect some CPD points too.

I would like to thank everyone for attending and taking the

time to complete feedback forms. This data is invaluable in terms of communication and will enable the line-up for next year's event, which is planned for a similar time in 2013, to be tailored more closely to members' needs. The day was rounded off by Tony Smith, BIGGA Chairman, with a Q&A session, which was an opportunity for people to ask those questions that we all think up between BTME annually.

Thanks should also go to Sandra Raper for coordinating and organising the day and for being the driving force behind the day. She was brilliantly assisted by Stuart Green from HQ and overall the whole event was, I believe, a total success.

I don't know about you but the chocolate in my advent calendar this year seems much smaller? Have Thorntons introduced austerity measures in their production program? This is going to be a difficult Christmas for me as I'm in training for The Brighton Marathon next April and I can't justify starting to 'Carb up' four months prior to the event.

I'm not doing it in fancy dress, my SpongeBob Square Pants outfit has been retired, but I am doing it for The Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research charity to help raise money for an extremely worthy and supportive cause.

If anyone would care to sponsor me then I do have a JustGiving page set up or you could text/email/phone me and pledge your support.

There isn't much more to report this month so I'd like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous 2013.

Greg Skinner
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MIDLAND

Well here we are, the end of the year.

And what a year! As the poet Coleridge should have wrote: "Water, water everywhere and not a drop to fish", or indeed do anything outside such as,

perish the thought, work with a little sun on our backs.

Lets all pray for a more clement 2013.

The Autumn Tournament was held at Druids Heath Golf Club on Thursday 25 October, where the weather was cold, breezy but dry.

The course was presented beautifully by Course Manager Jim Lake and his fine team.

Congratulations to you all, and thanks to the Club for allowing us courtesy of the course.

The main prize sponsor on the day was New Holland Tractors, with thanks to Ted Barnet of The Compact Tractor Centre in conjunction with Simon Gumbrell from Campeys who presented the prizes.

The nearest the pin sponsors were Sherriff Amenity and Working Turf, and the hot drinks and chocolate at the halfway house was courtesy of Farols.

Thank you to all our sponsors who contributed to make it such a successful day.

The winners were as follows: 1 Andy Brougham 38pts; 2 Dave Fellows 36pts 3 Ed Stant 34pts. Division Winners were Clint Woodall, Tom Boyd and Howard Middlebrook. Trade Prize was won by John Lewis from Lely UK.

Thanks also to Sandra Raper and Stuart Green from BIGGA who attended and added valuable input to the AGM.

There were no changes with any committee members and as such the following were voted in for next year: President John Hammond; Chairman Ed Stant; Deputy Chairman Rhys Thomas; Secretary Andy Smith; Treasurer Gary Cunningham; Committee Nigel Tyler, Richard Beacham, Leigh Swann, Kev Pugh

What's this I see on this month's calendar page? A photo of our Chair looking rather portly and indeed void of tan.

Ed, rectification requires more time in the field, and Tracy's cakes should be posted to Stratford for the attention of SELM.

This month's calendar is sponsored by Countrywide/Andy Lane MBPR.

Please consider Andy for your Turf and Amenity requirements.

Email: alane@countrywide-

farmers.co.uk or Mob: 07774 416 429.

And finally, our ever gracious, supportive and learned President Mr J Hammond has seen fit to undertake his PA1 and PA2 (whatever they are now) spraying test, and of course passed with flying colours. John is, as many of us remember a man that retired some years ago from sales, and a very respected man he was, and indeed still is as our president. Such is amplified by the fact that John is still wishing to keep in touch with Greenkeeping and its modern ramifications and laws.

Well done John, again you have set the example to follow. Sean McDade.



MID ANGLIA

As I write this in mid November the temperature is 15 degrees and hardly what we expect in late Autumn.

Then again the weather for 2012 has hardly been textbook so nothing surprises me in what has been a very testing season for turf managers.

We had our third outing for the year and had a healthy attendance at Verulam GC for the Autumn Golf Day.

The weather was very testing as it was damp, cold and miserable early but cleared up nicely towards the final holes.

Our thanks go to Chris Carpenter and his team for getting the course in great shape for the event at this awkward time of year.

The Results are as follows: 1 Simon Woolley 38pts; 2 S Parnell 36pts; 3 Oly Browning (BIGGA National Champion!) 33pts; Nearest Pin - John Moorhouse (yes that is correct! Mr Moorhouse's first outing for 8 years?); Nearest Pin - Gerald Bruce; Trade Prize - Rob Catlin

We are all looking forward to the Texas Scramble at Dunstable Downs GC and let's hope Frank has come back down to earth after Celtic's stunning win over the mighty Barcelona! I am sure he won't mention it at all on the 4th..ha ha.

Darren Mugford - d.mugford@rigbytaylor.com

Assistant Profile

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

Name: Gavin Jones
Age: 24
Club: St Andrews Links Trust
Position: Greenkeeper
Nickname: Too many to say!



1. How long have you been greenkeeping?

I have been a full time greenkeeper for one-and-a-half years but have been greenkeeping from the age of 15.

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

I could never be indoors all day, worst nightmare. It's a way of life and I feel it keeps you healthy

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

That's a tough one, Think I might be musician or an artist

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

Cutting greens, as the greens are massive at the Castle Course and I am proud when I see golfers play on them

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

I don't really know, it's hard to say depends on the weather!

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

Good weather every day of the year with the odd day of rain for irrigation

7. Hobbies?

Music, Art, Photography, relaxing

8. Favourite Band?

Coldplay would be at the top

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

Ireland and Leinster in the rugby

10. What is your claim to fame?

Hugh Grant robbed my pencil at Kingsbarns (but gave it back).

BIGGA welcomes the following new members

Scotland

Stephen Kelly, SRUC (Elmwood), Central Section
Graeme Ritchie, SRUC (Elmwood), Central Section
Dafydd Davies, SRUC (Elmwood), Central Section

Northern Region

Stuart Imeson, Dunstanburgh Castle Golf Club, North East Section
John Chambers, Prudhoe Golf Club, North East Section
James Thorpe, Dunstanburgh Castle Golf Club, North East Section
Liam Ord, Sharpley Springs Golf Course, North East Section
Declan Kearney, Southport Golf Links, North West Section
Nicholas Jones, Drax Golf Club, Northern Section

Midland Region

Adam Bucknall, South Staffordshire Golf Club, Midland Section
Steven Alderson, South Staffordshire Golf Club, Midland Section
Chris Bromley, Robin Hood Golf Club, Midland Section
Peter Orbine, Gedney Hill Golf Club, East of England Section
Craig Marshall, St Ives Golf Club, East of England Section
Kieran Shillito, St Ives Golf Club, East of England Section
Andrzej Krupowicz, Bicester Golf & Country Club, Mid Anglia Section

South East Region

Stuart Venn-Dunn, Lister Wilder Ltd, Surrey Section
Peter Crossley, Dyke (The) Golf Club, Sussex Section
Callum Long, Collage of West Anglia (The), East Anglia Section
George Butters, Ufford Park Hotel Golf & Leisure, East Anglia Section

South West/South Wales

David Robertson, Coombe Hill Golf Club, Surrey Section
Samuel Horner, Gloucester Golf Club, South West Section
Anthony Parker, Shrewsbury School, South West Section
Adam Jones, Stinchcombe Hill Golf Club, South West Section
Jordan Carrier, Gosport & Stokes Bay Golf Club, South Coast Section
Tommy Flanders, Hartley Wintney Golf Club, South Coast Section
David Fletcher, M B Wilkes Ltd, South Coast Section

Overseas

Pat Yarbrough, Global Turf Equipment, USA
Rick Tegtmeyer CGCS, Des Moines Golf & Country Club, USA
Michael Murphy, Waterville House & Golf Links, Republic of Ireland

notice to put on an individual event. John Hart and his staff provided an excellent course and the catering staff provided an excellent meal for us.

The results were as follows: 1 S Hopkins; 2 M Davies; 3 J Dair; Trade G Cooper; Longest Drive Jack Fairman; Nearest Pin Geoff Wand. Once again a big thanks to Colliers for rescuing this event.

Due to a decline in turnout for this fixture in the last couple of years it has been decided to play it bi-annually and alternate it with the fixture v the Secretaries. Our annual AGM was held on October 4th at South Kyme Golf Club. The turnout for the meeting was poor with committee members outnumbering other members. Due to the relocation of Chairman Allan Walker, Graeme MacDonald has taken over the role with Adi Kitchenson taking over as Vice Chairman. All other positions remain the same.

The results from the golf were as follows: 1 Mervyn Davies; 2 Bruce Hicks; 3 Robin Portress; Longest Drive Matt Haynes; Nearest Pin; Paul Doherty; Trade Ian Collett. Many thanks to South Kyme Golf Club for providing a course in great condition, followed by a superb meal afterwards. Thanks also to the sponsors for the day F.G.Adamson John Deere dealers.

All that remains is to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year. Steve Beverly, Immingham Golf Club

SOUTH EAST REGION



SURREY

Thursday November 15.
I have been writing this article each month for so long now that I forget when I started all those years ago.

One day I will check when I wrote the first one after taking over from Ted Styles back in the good old days.

And now, like Ted, it's time for me to hang up the old quill pen and say goodbye to deadlines forever. I understand my successor will take over from next month and I will leave him to

introduce himself then. All I will say about him is that he is not as good-looking as me, he speaks with a slight lisp and he irons his own shirts. So forget the Isle of Wight, my cruise holidays, Studland Bay and the adventures of Gary Ogilvie and look forward to dedicated and sensible reporting from 2013. Having mentioned Studland Bay, it's only fair to tell you all that I stayed there, with the family, just a few weeks ago and enjoyed a long weekend, golfing on the 9 hole par 3, walking scenic routes and eating excellent food at breakfast, lunch and dinner. I sampled many pints of the local ales, sunk a few bottles of wine and came home a few pounds (sterling) lighter but a few pounds (weight) heavier.

No nudists observed on the naturist beach, for the weather was cool enough to deter any male exhibitionists.

Surrey news includes the England v Scotland match at Hankley Common GC where an all square result meant that England retained the cup.

Two picked players who were unable to attend were Ian Sellars for England and Steve Holmes for Scotland.

Apparently one had a stiff arm due to a flu injection and the other also felt a little stiff, the cause of which we have not been told but we understand his wife was pleased and insisted he had to stay home. Who suffered from what we will leave to your imagination. That's it for now but please phone me on 07879474038, my Tacit number, for a chat at any time.

Brian Willmott
brian.willmott@hotmail.co.uk



KENT

By the time you read this we shall just have played our Turkey Trot and held our AGM at Redlibbits Golf Club.

Hopefully you will all have enjoyed what has become a fantastic event at a great venue.

I know Kev planned to set the course up as well as conditions would allow so thanks to him and the Redlibbits crew for their efforts. I am very pleased to report that we have prepared a full fixture list for 2013 and

that all attendees to the Turkey Trot should have collected their pocket reminders for next year.

One piece of great news is that we have managed to secure Royal St. Georges for our Spring event so when Kev sends out the e-mail booking notice get your names down quick! See website for all 2013 dates.

On the subject of Royal St. Georges, I am pleased to announce that Paul Larsen has been appointed as Course Manager at this most prestigious of venues. We sincerely wish Paul every success and I'm sure that all your friends in the Kent section will relish the chance to play there soon and offer help if needed when major tournaments come around.

Obviously, as I am writing this before our AGM, I am unaware whether the vote for 'Election of Officers' would have sprung up any surprises and found a new secretary but I would like to say a sincere thanks to all our members for supporting our great section and making it such a joy to work for.

The section would like to extend its gratitude to all our host venues this year. They were: North Foreland, West Kent, Boughton and Redlibbits.

We shall be working on a 2014 fixture list in the coming months so please let us know if you are willing to have us at your club.

Thank you too to all our sponsors for supporting us this year and providing not just financial help but also your general company and friendship. I shall be writing to you again soon!

Just like to sign off now by wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas and a successful 2013. est of British, Rob Holland
www.kentgreenkeepers.com



SUSSEX

BIGGA Essex, Surrey and Sussex Sections recently played against each other at Lingfield Park Golf Club.

The completion was stableford with all points for each team added together to make the final scores.

The weather held for us, although it was somewhat foggy which made it tricky if you hadn't played there before.

Well, that was Pete Smith's



EAST OF ENGLAND

Hello everyone. Hard to believe that another year has passed by again so quickly. Quite how a year will end that started off with snow, a warm dry March and hosepipe bans; followed by flooding and rampant grass growth; I don't know.

The annual match v Trade in September at Blankney had to be called off due to the trade being unable to field a team. Instead Collier Turf Care and Everris stepped in at short

excuse for his very slight contribution to a great Sussex win!

All thanks to our hosts and organisers. The course was in great condition, in particular the greens. Once again, a great win for Sussex and let's make sure all these events are supported and kept running. Please remember to send any news to me on my email address or give me a call.

Eric Green
TheGreens837@aol.com
Tel: 01424 - 214600



ESSEX

This last month has seen us hold two education events the first was a Golf Course Design Workshop, with Howard Swan.

Although numbers were somewhat disappointing, those who did attend thoroughly enjoyed the day and the experience. Howard ran us through the history of course design and explained the theory behind such things as bunker placement and water run-off, the position of tees and fairway shaping to get the best out your course.

This was followed up with a hands-on design session, members were asked to bring along details of holes on their own courses that they felt needed improvement. We spent an hour or so drawing up our plans and then Howard went through each design and made alterations and explained the reasons behind each one.

As I have already said we all enjoyed the experience and came away a lot wiser.

Our second event was the first of its type we have run. A Machinery Demonstration day held at Channels Golf Club.

We invited the BIG Three machine manufacturers through their distributors, Ernest Doe & Sons (Ransomes Jacobsen), Toro (Lely UK Ltd) and P.

Tuckwell Ltd (John Deere) to bring along a greens mower, a fairway mower and a utility cutting or other machine, for a demonstration and Q&A day. 61 members attended and were split into three groups, each group was assigned to one of the manufacturers for a one hour period to be shown each of the machines, they were

then broken down into smaller groups to make life easier for the demonstrations, members then moved around each of the machines in turn having hands on instruction whenever they wished.

After their hour was up it was off to the next camp for a repeat of the demonstrations.

Our thanks go to the following for their support.

Ernest Doe & Sons, Matt Wise & Steve Bush, Ransomes Jacobsen, Nigel Church and Demonstrator Phil.

Toro, Larry Pearman, Richard Freeman & Dean Rook.

P.Tuckwell Ltd, Neil Peachey, Rob Galley, Nick Ashman (John Deere) and James Dixon (Gambetti UK).

The Essex Section would also like to thank Channels Golf Club and Course Manager Ray Clark for the use of their facilities, the coffee and bacon roll before and the meal we all enjoyed after the demonstrations.

Our thanks also go to our outgoing Chairman, Mark Stopps for all his hard work in putting this event together, for without his idea in the first place this event would not have taken place.

Around ten members from the Essex section attended the Regional Conference held at Thorpeness Country Club this month.

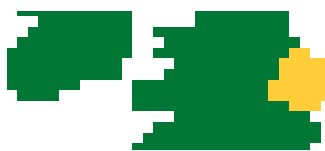
The content was very good with Kate Entwistle as always captivating the audience with a very interesting talk on turf disease issues.

I for one found all the speakers very interesting, Mark Hunt's explanation of the jet stream was a real eye opener, with an interesting overview by course architect Ken Moodie of the re-structuring of Thorpeness Golf Clubs course and the subsequent winning of the Environment award by the STRI's Richard Stuttard, also something to remember.

Thanks to the East Anglian section for putting on such a good show.

The section AGM is nearly with us and as previously stated we are losing three members from the committee hopefully this will be rectified at the meeting and we will be welcoming new blood and new thoughts into the fold.

Next month, news of the AGM and Team golf event.



EAST ANGLIA

A lively bunch arrived at "The Windy City" – AKA Ely City Golf Club.

Still at least it wasn't raining.

Thanks to Andy Baker and his crew for presenting a course in fine fettle.

The wind was probably the winner, but some showed a battling spirit as the scores will show:

0 – 9 Handicap: 1st, Mike Buck (who else?) 34 Points; 2nd, Mike Virley 29 Points

10 – 19 Handicap: 1st, Mat Le Braun (Overall Winner) 36 Points, 2nd Mark Broughton 34 Points

20 – 28 Handicap: 1st Ian Willett, 28 Points, 2nd Martin Brightwell 27 Points

3rd: Trade & Guests: 1st Graham Kemp, 37 Points

2nd: Warren Richards, 34 Points

Nearest The Pin:

2nd Hole: Mike Barney, 6th Hole: Brian Trett, 12th Hole: Craig Spooner, 13th Hole: Michael Buck, Longest Drive: Gavin Merrison, Loo Seat

Mark Broughton (moaned about his golf all the way round, scored 34 points).

I wish I could have a bad round like that!

The prizes were presented by Mike Nash, the club chairman, who made us all very welcome. The main sponsor for the day was Tomlinson Groundcare – lovely hotdogs!

Other VIPs were:- Aitkens, Spearhead, British Sugar (topsoil), Bartram Mowers, Rigby Taylorl Scotts, Sherrif, Evirris, Ben Burgess and Amenity Technology.

Thank you Ely City Golf Club for a good day.

Mick Lathrope

SOUTH WEST & WALES REGION



SOUTH WEST

My my how the weather has changed! The blower is getting all kinds of use blowing these

leaves.

All different types of trees shedding, the big trees, small trees even the hedges.

But on a more serious note, I do hope that this continued weather has not drained you too much.

We at Minchinhampton have just started our winter projects – cutting down all these trees! Just joking, we are continuing with our bunker project, 5 holes, 8+ bunkers, that and tee leveling...could be a very long winter.

What is it you're doing this winter? Share with us by emailing me or uploading your pictures on Facebook.

I always get a little lost this time of year, I never know if this is a little too early for me to say or not...but merry Christmas everyone, I hope that Santa got you everything you wished for.

Remember this Christmas is about having a little rest, you've work hard enough for the last 11 months, take a break, relax and enjoy some time off!

Again people, I would love your involvement with this article, it is yours after all, surely you don't want to hear about what I've been up to all the time, my life really is that boring, share a few things you have going on, just drop me an email an help put a little smile on everyone's face.

We would also like to thanks our patronage partners for 2012, Farmura, Countrywide, Headland, Eco-solve, TH White, Irrtech Ltd, Avoncrop.

We also have a Facebook page for the southwest section, one that will make it much more convenient for you all to use, you don't have to do anything, just enjoy this amazing feature you have at your fingertips.

Adam Matthews



SOUTH COAST

As Christmas approaches it's hard to get a grasp of where the year has gone, it doesn't seem five minutes ago that I left a buoyant and positive BTME week in January and now the 2013 show is approaching fast.

It has been another month of very trying weather and on my travels I can hear the sense of complete frustration from

Around The Green

greenkeepers and groundsmen alike as they continue to battle in trying to manage their turf, the hope is that 2013 will bring a much kinder year, the industry needs it. I have just returned from the excellent South West and Wales Regional Seminar.

It was a great day organised by our hard working regional administrator Jane Jones. Speakers included our very own Rob Wills from Remedy Oak who gave another polished performance and now has to do it all again at BTME in January.

Our own section seminar is taking shape and has been confirmed for Milton Abbey School on Wednesday 20 February.

Confirmed speakers to date are John Lockyer, Course and Grounds Manager at Roehampton Club and Paul Lowe, Technical Sales Manager with Symbio.

We have are waiting to hear from three more speakers and as soon as the final line up is arranged I will be in touch.

Please come along and support the day which is excellent value, provides some quality education, excellent networking opportunities and accrues you some valuable C.P.D. points.

The C.P.D. system is currently being reviewed and is becoming increasingly important in your own development as a greenkeeper. Full details of the seminar and application forms will be sent out very early 2013 along with our fixture cards for 2013 which have almost been completed.

Looks like a good year ahead and we start at Remedy Oak Golf Club for our golf days. As you will know we have changed our method of communicating to you and are embracing email. This is mainly due to spiralling postage costs and as we are trying to be prudent with section funds it was a fairly easy decision to make. If you do not receive emails from us it will be because we don't have your current email address, so please make sure you update your records. You can email me at southcoastsecretary@gmail.com

Merry Christmas and a Happy New year, I hope it brings you and your loved ones all that you and they wish for.

Make an effort in 2013 to attend as many section events as possible, we need your support and collectively as a section are stronger for your presence and that support.

Also BTME is a great week and it needn't cost the earth.

There are scores of free seminars along with some very good value seminars and workshops not forgetting the show.



DEVON AND CORNWALL

Hello all, our November meeting was held at Bowood Park Hotel and Golf Club, near Camelford, Cornwall.

48 attendees enjoyed a rare dry day, for one of our events, at Bowood with 18 playing golf and 30 on the course walk lead by Rob Cook, Head Greenkeeper.

Rob started the course walk by taking us all to the site of a new windmill that is currently being installed behind the clubhouse. The windmill will be used to generate electricity to feed the clubhouse and facilities as well as generating an estimated extra £30,000 of income for the business. The elevated and exposed position along with many other windmills already erected in the area, made it a prime location for the structure. The course was in fantastic condition considering recent rains, very firm in all areas.

Rob and his team have worked hard over the years to improve drainage in key areas and to reduce the thatch content in the upper surface of the USGA greens. Rob has got to the stage now where he is introducing and increasing the population of finer grasses and in particular fescue. The course was a testament to Rob and his young team.

During the course walk, the attendees were given the opportunity to participate in a nearest the pin competition. This was the brainchild of Richard Japes, Sports Metals to give the course-walkers the chance to win a prize. This was won by Mike Ellis from "The Point at Polzeath" and the prize donated and presented by Richard.

The golf format for the day was individual Stableford playing for the "Bayer" Cup. The top three competitors all ended up with 32 points, but the winner on countback was Lee Kirk (MST), in second place was Anthony "Jacko" James (Killiow) and in third was David Daw (Porthpean). Prizes for places were sponsored and presented

by Dave Orchard from Bayer Crop Science. Nearest the pin on the 2nd was won by Lee Kirk and the longest drive on the 18th was won by Adrian West (St Mellion).

Richard Japes, Sports Metals sponsored and presented these prizes. A massive thank you to the two sponsors for the day, Bayer and Sports Metals.

After the fantastic lunch, the members were treated to a presentation by Dave Orchard on "How to get the most from your Fungicides" determining the different modes of action and properties of fungicides, also identifying the stage of the disease you are trying to treat and making sure that the product applied has the capability to deal with task in hand.

A big thank you to Rob and his team and to all at Bowood Park Hotel and Golf Club for their very kind and wonderful hospitality throughout the day.

Our Christmas meeting is to be held at Ashbury GC on Thursday 13 December. The format for the day will be to either play golf (Greensomes) or attend the course walk. This will be followed by Christmas lunch, prizes and raffle. Following this there will be the opportunity to take part in various activities including snooker, indoor bowls and ten-pin bowling. The theme for the day will be "Devon v Cornwall". There will be the opportunity to book accommodation at £25, this includes bed and breakfast and a further round of golf the next day. Please contact me ASAP to secure a place as we expect this to be very popular! Our first meeting of the New Year will be at Perranporth Golf Club on Wednesday 9 January.

I'm sure everyone is aware of Billy Mitchell's tremendous achievement of almost 50 years at the club and of his dedication to the industry.

Billy has been at the forefront of many trials and new initiatives over the years and is held in very high regard throughout the Industry.

That coupled with Perranporth being one of the most natural and unique Links courses in the country, we expect this to be a very popular meeting.

Invites for this meeting will be sent out in early December.

George Pitts, Section Secretary, Bigga Devon & Cornwall
07929 754401
gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com



SOUTH WALES

I will start with our first ever South Wales Section Dinner and Dance, what an evening it was - fantastic to see so many of us sharing the evening with our beautiful wives and partners.

I know we all spend a lot of our time at work and I do feel it is nice to always give something back to the Wags as they are so often known.

There are so many thank yous we need to give firstly Gareth Knight for arranging the evening at St Pierre the venue, entertainment and food was first class thanks Gareth for such a great event.

The sponsors/patrons; without companies purchasing the tables this dinner would not have been possible a massive thank you to all your companies and please after seeing many of the complimentary emails going around please be sure to book for next year - thanks again.

I would just like to put the rumours to bed regarding myself as many of you have seen the number of photos in circulation of me looking like a very attractive lady? Well this wasn't me trying to be Roxanne (Alex Reid) just the beginning of my stag do.

Thanks to most of you guys for coming it truly was a great night and I'm sure many of us are rather scarred by the evening events and we'll leave it at that!

Our Christmas golf event is taking place at Southerndown Golf Club on Friday 14 December at 10am please contact Gareth Knight or Paul Handy to book your place.

With BTME just around the corner please have a good think about coming even with secretaries or chair of greens I'm sure it would be a huge eye opener for many of them seeing the professionalism of us and what goes on behind the scenes.

For information and great hotel bed and breakfast rates please contact Jane Jones.

I wish all of you and your families a very happy Christmas and a DRY new year.

Peter Holmstrom