

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



Scottish Region



Central

Happy New Year to all our members and I hope it turns out a much better one than 2011 - weather wise at least. As I write this in early December, many of our courses are struggling from all the rain we have had recently, and with the mild November there has probably been more disease around than usual. Still, at this time in 2010 most of us were under a good blanket of snow or ice.

As mentioned in the December report, the Section plans to do all its correspondence by email, or via the website and facebook next year, therefore it's important that members provide their email addresses either to me, gmoir@standrews.org.uk or to BIGGA HQ, so we can add them to the database.

The presentation with Kenny Liddell on Nov 30 was well supported and we have a few other ideas in the pipeline, details on www.biggacentralsection.org.uk Next up is an evening at Auchterarder GC on January 11, from 5pm until 8pm, specifically for the younger greenkeepers who are looking to move up the ladder into a Deputy or Head Greenkeeper position. Lee Strutt and Grant Frogley, from GWest, will describe in a workshop style with presentations on what the job entails, what employers look for and what skills you need to develop. Some light food will be available.

Finally, congratulations to Grant Stewart, who has left St Andrews Fairmont for a new position as Head Greenkeeper at Sunningdale
Gordon Moir



East

Well 'A GUID NEW YEAR TAE YE AW' Health and Happiness tae you and yours.

We had our AGM at Niddry Castle GC, in Winchburgh, on November 15.

The occasion was sponsored by Huxley Golf, so thanks again to Hugh for the excellent presentation - very informative!

There were 22 members at the meeting which proved to be successful with some good ideas coming from the floor.

Thanks to those of you who made the effort to attend. Indeed thanks goes to all of you who attended our outings throughout the past year.

We are pleased to announce that our committee has increased in numbers with a full list of names and duties to follow next month after we have our first Section meeting for the coming year.

Well done to Gary McCandless who was victorious in the nine hole competition, winning Jimmy Neilson's Claret Jug by an edge over Jamie Martin on the day.

I think the nett albatross during the round made the difference.

Gary, 'Well done'.

So Harrogate is almost upon us and I hope to meet many of you there both in a professional and social capacity.

Good luck to you all in 2012 and please phone or email if you have any queries or information you may wish to ask or pass on to our East Section Greenkeepers.

Yours in Golf
Stewart Crawford
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West

Happy New year to all and best wishes for the coming season, here's hoping it will be a good one with plenty of sunshine and only a few showers. I hope everybody enjoyed the festive season and didn't over indulge with the amber nectar, I guess the New Year's resolutions are already made they just need to be adhered to for a small time at least. As I sit here typing this up the snow is lying outside creating wonderful winter scene pictures, this is when it's a joy to work outdoors as some of the scenery is breathtaking. I hope to see plenty of entries for next year's photographic competition from the West Section.

At this time of year the tree surgery work is the priority for us, pruning, clearing, and felling damaged trees and branches, then thinning out heavy woodland areas creating stock piles for insects and removing diseased plants. Health and safety checks already completed after all the poor weather in late November and then the painting tasks started, it's amazing how things have changed in 25 years. Please be aware safety

officers are now completing on spot checks to ensure golf clubs are up to scratch with paperwork and equipment is in a safe condition.

Well guys all the general talk passed I don't have too much to mention other than the annual Scottish Conference, at Dunfermline, on March 6. As usual a fine collection of speakers will be there and definitely worth a visit.

The annual conference and trade show at Harrogate in late January will be coming up soon and I hope to bump into a few people there, although I will be tucked in my bed early each night, as I have to be on my best behaviour. The West Section intend running a small seminar with Everris in February and notification should be out in the new year, the venue being Renfrew golf club. The dates for the spring outing will be given shortly, and as soon as I hear, I will let you know.

Just to mention a small thing, I was recently contacted by Graham Shearer, who used to work at Balmore and Loch Lomond, but is now based in Australia where he has worked on some prestigious courses, and he wanted me to pass on his best wishes to all in the West Section. Graham is married to a lovely Australian girl and has a young son with another child on the way but he said he reads the

BIGGA Regional Conference

Scotland

6 March 2012, Carnegie

Conference Centre, Dunfermline

Contact Peter Boyd, RA,

0141 616 3440

West section articles monthly which keeps him up to date on events. If anybody wishes to get in touch them please contact me.

Finally, I said I would report on the annual night out for the West Section, which started off at Lloyds Bar in Glasgow with 20 people turning up. Unfortunately a few committee guys weren't able to be there but those who turned up seemed to enjoy themselves. We started off at Lloyds, then the Maltman, then on to One Up. Well done those guys and please forget the Vaggermistars in future. That's youngsters for you.

Last but not least can I express my best wishes to Kenny Hunter, of Fairways, I hope he is recovering well from his recent illness and also to Jim Devlin, at Western Gables, who has been unwell, I hope you both get better soon.

Stuart Taylor



North

On a positive note the weather been very kind to us in November and hopeful you will have made a good start to your winter programmes. I would like to mention the Patron Awards winners for 2011 which are Stuart Brown, from Royal Aberdeen Golf Club, and myself (Ross Macrae), from Newmachar Golf Club. We will look forward to meeting everybody down at Harrogate in January.

The two outings have been confirmed for next year and are at Royal Aberdeen Golf Club on April 26 for the Spring Outing and Grantown On Spey Golf Club on September 13 for the Autumn Outing. There will be a Phostoxin Course around the second week in February by Lantra which you might find useful for dealing with rabbits and moles. Anybody interested please get in touch with me. On a final note by the time you read this I hope you all have had a good Christmas and a good New Year.

Ross Macrae
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ross.macrae@hotmail.com

Northern Region



Northern

Hello everyone.

My first task as new Secretary is to give a big thank you to Frank Stewart who did a sterling job for the Section. I'm sitting looking out at the horrible weather today with a smug grin on my face (decided to stay in bed and not play in the Sunday morning comp) and hoping that it will be better for Selby and the Christmas day out.

Over the years like most of you, when you get this magazine it's a bee line to the job Section and then the Section notes (if any Adam!...tee hee). No seriously we read Scott's notes first and then on to the jobs!

I'm looking forward to filling Franks shoes and also glad to be back on the Committee, we have a great team, who put in a lot of time and effort so we can have fantastic golf days out on some wonderful courses, on that note I would love to see more new faces play in next year's events as well as seeing the old faces continue to support the Section.

To the young lads in our Section, please come along and see what a great day is had, where else can you play a fantastic golf course and enjoy a three course meal not forgetting a bacon sarnie before you start for £20, and to play with experienced Course Managers who you can chat and learn from and from whom one day you could be asking for a job! Or, you could be unlucky and get paired up with Ken Christie or Mel Guy...Only kidding boys.

These days could not be a success without the fantastic support of our sponsors, a big thank you to those guys and for your continued association with us.

OK, so I wish you all a great new year and look forward to seeing many of you at Harrogate and at some of our golf days.

Any news, gossip please ring me after 2pm or text or email at; 07506407867
slingsbyfamily@virginmedia.com
Andy Slingsby



North Wales

Happy New Year, here we go into 2012, either a great year when the Olympic torch touches our shores and our hearts or as the Mayans have predicted the year the earth comes to an end, I don't think that the Olympics will make a massive difference to us here in North Wales and while I could be wrong, I'm also pretty sure the Mayans didn't use a Gregorian calendar, so how can it be they predicted the world would end on the 12th day of the 12th month of the 12th year?

The Christmas tournament and AGM took place on December 7, at Heswall Golf Club, as normal this column has gone to the printers before the day took place, so I will put a full write up in February's column.

Depending on interest the Section could be running a coach to Harrogate but this will only happen if enough seats have been booked to make it

viable, I do hope enough seats have been taken up as Harrogate is the Association's flagship event and we should make the effort to attend.

I think that's about it for this month not a massive amount for you to digest, I still look forward to hearing from members; let's make this year the one when you get in touch with me and share your news with the Section

All the best until next month.

Pete Maybury e-mail petemayb66@aol.com mobile 07756001187 or Facebook group North Wales bigga.



North West

Happy New Year everyone in the North West Section! As I write this it is mid November! Seems strange to be writing notes for the January's edition, but a few things have happened building up to the turn of the year. Apart from what feels like a five-month autumn and a constant battle against Fusarium and Anthracnose.

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Around The Green

In October, we had our Autumn Tournament at a superbly presented Dunham Forest GC it was a beautiful day and Chris Gibson and his team deserved all the plaudits dished out at the presentation for the course condition!

The winner was Tim Johnston, from Wilmslow GC.

Then in November we had the Bert Cross Memorial Trophy, at Wilmslow GC, and yet again the course was in excellent condition thanks to the hard work of Steve Oultram and his team. One of which has just become a father for the first time so congratulations to Mark Hillaby.

The winner of the trophy was Steve (Bigfoot) McGuinness, from Dunham Forest, with a fine 41 points. So well done, Steve. This is the second victory for Dunham Forest GC as Chris Harding won the Spring Tournament at The Hesketh GC and they have won most of the Longest Drives and Nearest the Pins. Thank goodness for Billy Merritt winning at Grange Park GC in the Summer Tournament. A first win ever for Billy and, well, I will let Billy tell you how long he has been trying!

The AGM also took place at Wilmslow GC before the meal where the Chairmanship was passed across from Aide Holt, Birchwood GC, to Alec Davies, Denton GC. So thanks and well done to Aide for the last two years and good luck to Alec for the next two years.

The committee remained the same as nobody stepped down but there was an addition Dave Hooks, from Denton GC. Welcome Dave.

A couple of other things. Firstly, could I please encourage as many of the North West members Section to come along to these golf days? The standard of Golf Course we play is top class, as you can see from the list above, and it can only broaden your outlook to visit different courses and see how other green keepers go about their daily routines.

Also, if there are any Head Greenkeepers out there who are prepared to give their course up for what amounts to two hours maximum sometime next season please contact me via e-mail and I will pass on the details.

As you can see from below I am now writing the Section notes so please contact me if there is anything you think our

members may be interested in and can be put in the notes.

Last but not least please try and attend Harrogate, it is our show and it needs everyone's support especially in these trying times

Good luck in the New Year and always keep a fungicide on your shelf!!

Spencer Lloyd-Pye.
spencer@lloyd-pye.freeserve.co.uk



North East

Right here we go again this time last year we had several inches of snow at the moment we are clear but It has been trying this morning I just hope It doesn't come to anything I am getting to the point where I much prefer. It on a Christmas card must be a sign of getting old. Well there's not a lot to write about this month but I have managed to bring some news to the magazine. The first bit is did any of you members watch the programme The Cube on the last Sunday of November? And, if so, did you see Alan Morton, of TSL - Terry Charltons company - in the family enclosure where one of his family was a contestant. She was unlucky, just failing on that £50,000 prize. This isn't the first time he's been on TV in recent months as he was on local ITV channel before his wedding day crossing the river Tyne the hard way, meaning that he started from a high point then down using a pulley across the river. The things people do to get attention.

Bit of golf course news, Tyneside GC is having a bit of a change on the 1st hole. The course which was designed all those years ago by H.Colt is going back to that style so that means there is going to be alterations. This has been done by Frank Pont, a specialist in Colt courses. Work is expected to start soon I believe with a few bunkers added and in a different style to what they have. Good luck with that. Let's hope the snow keeps away.

Right not long to go until next year and I expect that we will have two new courses for Spring

and Autumn comps as I am only waiting for confirmation. One is near the coast in Tyne-and-Wear and the other is in North Northumberland. Soon as I hear we have the courses I will let you know.

And finally I hope to see you all at Harrogate at BTME in January. Call and see me as I am helping out on A13---A15 stand this Is the Centenary of Greenkeeping Associations. Lots of memorabilia will be on show from 1912-2012.

Jimmy Richardson



Sheffield

Hi everyone and Happy New Year.

The festivities are over for another year and it is time for us all to knuckle down and focus on our courses and projects get the course in tip top shape for the upcoming season. If the weather plays nice for us.

I hope everyone had a good rest and a long break over Christmas and, as I say, you are prepared for the year ahead. We at Sheffield Section are focused once again to improve the Section in 2012 and improve the Section for all our members. We have many ideas for the new year and will be working hard to make sure they are all put in place.

I hope everyone had a good day at Christmas golf and AGM all information from this event will be posted on facebook and in next month's magazine.

I must at this point thank members for their support in 2011 and must thank all members of our Committee for their hard work once again.

Our first lecture working alongside Myerscough College will take place in February and details of this event will be sent to all members. This is a massive step for education events in Sheffield and with the support of Myerscough we will be attracting quality educational speakers. It is important that we support these events and we will all benefit in the long run. Every one of us can always learn something new and attending these days will improve us all

and help improve the industry on a whole that we work in. It will be good to see you all there.

Fixture lists for the upcoming season will be reaching you soon and any other information will be posted on facebook or will be updated in these notes.

Good luck for the year and I hope to see you all over the upcoming year

Jim Stevens

jimmy_jams20@hotmail.com
07738719614

facebook - Bigga sheffield section

Midland Region



BB&O

As we enter January and shake off the post Christmas blues and excesses, attention will turn from winter to thoughts of spring and what 2012 will hold.

With the excitement and expectation of the Olympics and European Championships sport is sure to take centre stage. No doubt golfers and members expectations will continue to push the boundaries as we rise to the challenge of producing decent playing surfaces and courses! Later this month sees the Association's flagship Harrogate Week, now in its 24th year. The event promises to provide yet another cracking line up of education and seminars while offering the chance to network and catch up with friends and colleagues. Hopefully many of you will get to attend and take advantage of what's on offer.

In other news from the Section, the Buckinghamshire Golf Club played host to the BB&O Turkey Trot back in November. A tremendous turn out saw 24 teams battling it out to be crowned champion. Following a mixture of chilly conditions, tricky pin positions and some terrific golf, Ellesborough GC returned as winner, shooting a gross score 66 / Net 57.7, second were Berkshire 1 with a gross 62 / Net 59.3, third were "We are only here for the Raffle" with a gross 64 / Net 59.7

The Longest Drive was won by Les Hawkins; Nearest the Pin on 14th, Stewart Clayton;

Nearest the Pin on the 3rd, Phil Ryder, Nearest the Pin on the 9th, Andy Thrift and Nearest the Pin in two on the 8th, Jim Lilitou. A special mention must be made to David Lyons, who recorded a hole-in-one on the 16th. The irony being it was the only par-3 without a Nearest the Pin! Full results can be viewed on the Section website.

A thank you must go to all of the staff at the Buckinghamshire who looked after everyone fantastically. In particular a big thank you and congratulations must go to newly-appointed Course Manager, Andy Ewance, and his team who presented a fantastic course which was both a challenge and pleasure to play. Andy brings a wealth of experience and knowledge which will continue to take the golf course forward. We wish him well with the new challenge.

Our thanks must go to the various sponsors, in particular Avoncrop, the main sponsors for the day. Without their generous support these events could not happen. It was fantastic to see the day so well supported by members and we look forward to seeing many of you again at this year's events.

The Section AGM was held before the dinner. The Committee were re-elected with Matt Nutter confirmed as Secretary. Fixtures for this year's events are also to be confirmed. The committee are organizing a photo competition where entries will be posted and viewed on the section's web site. Please send any worthy prize winning photos of your course to: coursemanager@hdgc.co.uk.

If anyone has any news, views or ideas they would like to see for the BB&O section then please don't hesitate to get in touch: bboscribe@gmail.com or contact the committee or Matt Nutter: bbosecretray@gmail.com

Alternatively keep up to date with what is happening in the BB&O Section by following us on Twitter, Facebook and the website: www.bbogreenkeepers.co.uk



East Midlands

Like Ross in Friends I am still carrying a little holiday weight as we enter another New Year. Congratulations to any Greenkeepers who appeared in the Queen's New Years Honours List....What? you mean there weren't any? What lies ahead?.....Another dry Spring giving little recovery from the Winter wear and tear and early season demands on irrigation systems and water supplies? Or will we have the perfect year...March winds... April showers etc? Only time will tell.

Looking back to the end of 2011, I would like to thank Andy McGreal and Danny Brown and their team at Lingdale Golf Club for hosting our Section Christmas Competition, which was a great success. Terry Walker and his Clubhouse team were excellent hosts and really looked after us all too. We managed to attract some new faces to the event and I sincerely hope this trend can continue throughout this year. I think the baseball cap and the Jelly Babies in the raffle are now becoming an integral part of the day!

After the Christmas and New Year celebrations we look ahead to wintry golf conditions, winter projects and of course Harrogate. Always a great week, whether in the show or catching up with old friends in the town in the evening. Incidentally if anyone sees the magician from 2010 who was impressing the ladies with his close up magic tricks could you tell him I've got his Ace of Spades so that's why his trick stopped working!

After Harrogate we enter the depressing month of February when the days seem so short and the sun has hardly any warmth in it and we stare at the calendar hoping for an early Spring.....just in time for The Masters to appear on our televisions. Which in turn leads to members asking 'Why isn't our course presented to that standard?' and 'The rhododendrons at Augusta always seem to bloom at the right time, don't they?...'I find a furrowed brow and silence often does the trick!!

So anyhow, here's to that perfect year for greenkeeping; just the right amount of rain

(at night of course), just the right amount of sunshine, no wind when spraying is planned and finally all golfers to repair/replace their divots, repair their pitchmarks and rake the bunkers properly as they always claim to do!

Happy New Year
Greg Skinner



Midland

Firstly, may I wish all a very happy new year on behalf of the Section's Committee. It also gives me great pleasure to inform you that Keith Swan, of Penn Golf Club, has been promoted to the position of Deputy. I hope that such gives you as much pleasure as it did me, well done Swaney.

As you maybe aware, our Toro service provider's are now Redtech owned and run by G. Hall. From personal experience I will vouch for Graham and his team's commitment to service. Our thanks to Redtech for sponsoring this month's calendar page. For all your Toro needs they can be contacted on: 07702 154 987, or redtech@btinternet.com.

Section Education Events booked for 2012;

Winter: Trip to John Deere UK, Langer, January 11, hosted by Farol's, through Kevin Pugh; Spring: Sherriff Amenity Road Show on March 14, hosted by Sherriff Amenity, through Nigel Tyler; Summer: Visit to Tillers Turf Farm on July 25, hosted by Rigby Taylor, through Tony Cheese; Autumn: Headland and STRI day. STRI to show the benefits of infiltration testing and Headland to look at winter greens management on October 24, through Mark Hunt, Headland Amenity, and Paul Woodham, STRI.

Golf Venues and dates for 2012: Spring: The Chase Golf Club, May 23; Summer: Oxley Park Golf Club, July 11;

Autumn: Druids Heath Golf Club, October 18; Winter: Sutton Coldfield Golf Club, December 2.

Please log onto the Midland Section website www.midlandsection.co.uk <<http://>

Assistant Profile

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

Name: Andy Slingsby

Age: 43
Position: Assistant Greenkeeper

Club: West End Golf Club, Halifax

Nickname....none printable!



1. How long have you been greenkeeping? 12 years

2. What was it about the career that attracted you? I have always enjoyed working outdoors and if could not earn a living from playing golf, well working on a golf course is second best.

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

4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why? Handcutting the greens. If your lines are straight, the finish is great to see

5. Which task do you least enjoy doing and why? Digging. 'Cos I get my hands dirty and can't use my phone!

6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot? The weather - longer sunny months

7. Hobbies? Golf, football, music and drinking beer!

8. Favourite Band? The Smiths

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

10. What is your claim to fame? I took part in Challenge Anneka, the BBC programme from the '80s and '90s!

Contact Scott at BIGGA on 01347833800 ext 510 to appear in as an Assistant Profile

Around The Green

www.midlandsection.co.uk> for further information on all upcoming events.

My thanks to our Chair, Ed Stant, for the above content, and well done to our Committee and others for organising such events.

Sean McDade.

South East Region



Mid Anglia

Hi all. I hope you've had a Happy Christmas and maybe a few well earned days off over the festive period.

Firstly, some info regarding the training mentioned last month, the First Aid At Work course is now fully subscribed, thanks and good luck to the 12 attending also there is one space available on the Fell And Process Small Trees course for more info on this, Email gerald@berkhamstedgc.co.uk

Secondly, results from the Christmas Texas Scramble will be in the next issue also I'll have details of venues, competition formats and, more importantly, revised entrance fees for 2012 golf meetings. Watch this space!

Finally may I wish you all a Happy and Prosperous new year.

Nigel Phelan



Kent

Happy New Year!

Over the last few months it has been my privilege to work at by far, the most prestigious golf course I have ever been associated with. My short term tenure at Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club has been an experience I shall never forget and I would like to offer sincere thanks to Gavin Kinsella, and the club officials, for the opportunity to add such a renowned venue to my portfolio.

The greenkeeping team there

certainly are an eclectic mix of characters who all contribute to making working there such a delight. I can't mention all 17 of you by name in this column but just a couple of individual 'stand outs' who do deserve a name check here are: Doug, Harry and Kev who are the greenkeeping stars of tomorrow, all round top bloke, Mikey, who I shall miss seeing fly past me on the south circular, John aka 'The oldest tea boy in the west', who cooked the crew a superb lunch every day and Dean, with his random noises and legendary mother who never failed to brighten up the mess room. Thanks guys.

On to matters in Kent. We recently played probably the best Turkey Trot we have ever staged on the fantastic course at Redlibbits.

A total of 35 golfers descended on Kev's masterpiece in Fawkham to again revel in the company of our ever-increasing group of incredible people and prodigious friends.

Having spent most of the week preparing for our event, Kev was able to ensure the mornings organisational duties went as smoothly as possible. A successful 'Movember' had resulted in our moustachioed Chairman looking like Colonel Sanders, from KFC, and sarcasm regarding his extreme facial hair was in abundance! Vic Maynard, from Ernest Doe's, expertly marshalled our troops off at the 1st having been suitably refreshed before taking on the challenge ahead. Rarely does my individual game do a course justice and today was no exception.

Im glad to say I wasn't the only one who struggled on a course which demanded a high degree of skill to negotiate. As always, however, the absolute fundamental premise to all of our events is that everybody is welcomed, catered for and hopefully inspired in some fashion to further their own greenkeeping careers. If we can't play great golf but achieve that then who cares!

Following the golf, a sumptuous Christmas dinner was served by the excellent catering staff at Redlibbits, which was appreciated by all after their arduous trek around Kev's picturesque course.

An extended prize giving included the presenting the days winner with the new Everris Shield. Chris White, of Knole

Park, was awarded the trophy by John Noyce, of Everris.

After shooting 44 points Kev saw fit to award him a five point cut on his handicap. Kent Section also decided to make an annual award of Golfer of the Year to the person who had accumulated the most points after attending all of our events this year.

The very deserving winner was our very own Trilby Tour Champion, Mr Darren Burton. Well done mate. Our Summer Pairs Knockout trophies were presented to Tim Maynard and Steve Gunner who defeated Darren Burton and Lee Campaney by 1 up in a final held at Royal Cinque Ports.

Following a raffle which included more prizes than attendees we swiftly moved onto our AGM. Moving through the agenda, Kev gave his 'State of the Union' address and various reports on how our Section had closed the year.

Happily, everything has gone swimmingly this year and we plan to continue doing much more of the same for 2012 after receiving the vote of confidence from the 40 or so assembled for the meeting. We gave out our fixture list for next year (please see webpage) before Mr John Millen sparked a lively education debate. John, as representative of Hadlow College, informed us about the full and comprehensive seminars which Hadlow is again hosting on our behalf this winter. Please do all you can to support these essential short evening sessions in order to aid your progression. Hadlow has been at the forefront of providing specialist education in the amenity sector for many years now and know exactly how to cater to our needs as greenkeepers. We never forget that our remit on the committee is to help you in your careers and Hadlow is providing an excellent service to that end. Please see our website for the list of monthly seminars and get there if you can.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our loyal sponsors for the very generous support they have provided us this year. Their contribution to this Section enables us to not only attend a number of golf courses every year at a subsidised rate, but also helps provide an education programme to be proud of. Thank you to all and I shall be writing to you all

again soon!

Don't forget that my golf support company is available for anyone requiring manpower or advice on your courses. Contact details are all on the website.

Wishing you all a successful 2012.

Best of British

Rob Holland

www.kentgreenkeepers.com



Essex

May I take this opportunity to wish all the members of the section and out sponsors a very happy New Year.

As 2011 drew to a close we held our second AGM of the year, the first being in January, (that being the postponed AGM from 2010 due to snow). Our second was a lot more congenial, although a little windy and a slight frost before we commenced a finely fought Texas Scramble, where 67 players graced the fine turf of Open qualifying club, Orsett Golf Club.

Played at a good pace, most were round in four and a half hours, which is a good time for this type of game. The bandits were out in full force though with some incredible scores posted, well done to everyone who played. I for one enjoyed the day as I know everyone did, going by the banter that was rife in the clubhouse after play. Our thanks to the Chef who braved the elements on the 12th tee for a good three hours, serving up hot Coffee and Burgers. This was very much appreciated by all.

Our thanks to Orsett's Course Manager, Don Clark and his team, for presenting the course in such a fine condition. Also to Orsett Golf Club for allowing us courtesy of the course and for the fine meal that we received on our return.

The AGM held before the fine feast was chaired by Neil Peachey. Our 2011 chairman Mark Stopps had had to stand down from the position earlier in the year due to ill health.

Mark is now back and has been re-appointed as our Chairman for next year, unanimously voted in by the membership.

The other members of the 2011 committee; Tom Smith, Andy Cracknell, Ian Wood and Arnold Phipps-Jones were also returned to office for the next two years.

Dominic Rodgers 2011 committee member, decided to stand down from the committee mid term and has now been replaced by Antony Kirwan, Antony returns to the committee after a two year absence. Welcome back Antz.

The committee proposed that they would like a new position within the Section committee, that of a President. This was accepted by the assembled members and a proposal that Martin Forrester be asked to accept the position was accepted with a majority vote. We welcome Martin back into the fold, (Martin was our long standing Secretary, from the inception of the Essex Section), this position is a non-executive role, but knowing Martin he will always be willing to lend a hand when needed and help when we seek guidance.

Our new President then presented the trophies for the year, to the following. Summer Trophy: Liam Springlett, Stoke By Nayland; Essex Trophy: Ray Clark, Channels; Autumn Trophy: Liam Springlett, Stoke By Nayland; Essex Knockout: Stewart Rogers & Steve Cousins. Orsett; Trade Golfer of the Year: Steve Bush, Ernest Doe and Golfer of the Year: Malcolm Smith, Channels).

The following awards for the day's golf were presented but Orsett's Course Manager, Don Clark.

Nearest the Pins on all the par 3s and these were won by the following: 3rd Tom Smith, 8th Jeff Taylor, 12th Jamie Hughes, 15th Antony Kirwan. The following are the results of the Texas Scramble. 1. Liam Springlett, Liam Close, Jamie Hughes, Campbell Murdoch; 2. Simon Banks, Antony Kirwan, Martin Guy, Richard Lewis; 3. Lee Stephens, Neil Peachey, Melvin Wright, Mick Sandel.

A nice raffle table followed the prize presentation; our thanks to those who generously helped support it. Once again our thanks to all at Orsett Golf Club - we all thoroughly enjoyed the day and the hospitality.

Our 2011 season was sponsored by the following companies: Amenity Technology; Bai-

ley'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; Limagrain UK; Old Forge Mowers; Otley College; Paynes Turf; Philip Liverton Ltd; P Tuckwell Ltd; Premier Plan; Prime Irrigation, Rainbird Europe; Rigby Taylor Ltd; Everris (Scotts Professional); Sheriff Amenity; Town & Country Turf Ltd; Sea Nymph Chaingreen; Tey Farm Systems; WJ Green Ltd; Writtle College.

I would like to thank all of the above, for without their help and support we would not have managed to put on as many things for the members throughout this past season.

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



Surrey

Thursday December 8. A Happy New Year to you all. I and her indoors will spend this Christmas on the mainland but New Year will be, a short cruise with coffee and cake followed by a tenuous drive across the wild lands of Wight to Ventnor. Full and unexpurgated details will appear in February's edition of this eminent monthly publication.

Wayne Sewell has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Worplesdon GC and Mark Fry will be his Deputy. Congratulations to both and also to Russell Abernethy who takes control of Malden GC when Alec Bradshaw retires in February 2012. Alec has been on the BIGGA Surrey Section Committee and has served as both Chairman and President and hopefully with receive honorary membership in his retirement. Alec, who is moving to Worksop, will be a near neighbour of Lee Westwood and hopes that with his coaching skills, Lee, will once again, be the world's number one. Alec will welcome guests who can share the delights of his large



Jim Croxton
Chief Executive

I feel very privileged to have the opportunity to serve this great Association as it celebrates its 25th Anniversary and as Greenkeeping Associations as a whole reach a century of achievement and progress.

2012 is a landmark year for BIGGA and presents the chance to reflect warmly on what has been achieved by the greenkeeping profession while focussing our attention on driving it forward to meet the challenges of the golf industry, our volatile economy and the ever changing pressures of government legislation.

When I took up this role in May, January 2012 seemed a long way away but it has arrived in a rush bringing with it not just our Anniversary Celebrations but of course BTME in Harrogate. At the time of writing sales of exhibition space are strong with continued interest in the last few stands available. Visitor registration numbers are also excellent and I have been receiving very positive feedback from exhibitors who feel that the vibes for this year's Exhibition are good.

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We have worked very hard over the last few months to promote attendance at the event because we genuinely believe, and have the evidence of many members to support this, that the combination of Exhibition, education, sharing of good practice, networking and camaraderie make a visit to Harrogate Week one that leaves every visitor better equipped to fulfil the needs of their employer and their customers.

As an Association it also provides a fantastic platform for us to interact with members. Please take the time to visit the BIGGA stand in Hall B and give us your feedback on how we can better serve your needs in the future. We know you are focussed on continuing to provide golfers with courses in better condition to ensure they enjoy playing the game and we work closely with all of the other governing bodies in golf to make sure they recognise the key part you play in the overall success of the sport.

I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank all of the companies who have chosen to exhibit at BTME. In doing so they place great faith in BIGGA and its membership, we are grateful for that trust and are always open to any discussion with them that can lead to mutual gain. I hope to speak with each one of them personally during the exhibition to back up these words but there's a lot of them so wish me luck!

Finally ticket sales are going well for our 25th Anniversary Celebration at The Old Swan hotel on Tuesday 24th January, it will be a great chance to celebrate all that has been achieved in wonderful company, please make every effort to join us.

See you in Harrogate.

Jim Croxton
Chief Executive

Around The Green

hot tub. Have a Happy retirement from all Surrey members.

Hankley Common GC was the venue for the Surrey Turkey Trot on December 6 and thanks to Gareth for organising the fine weather, cool but dry and with little wind. The course, as always, was in excellent condition and the turkey roast dinner that followed was delicious. Messrs Guy, Marney, Hall and Folds, whom by their hat design, were representing a golf club from Mexico and in true buccaneering fashion took first prize for the 3rd year running. Messrs Bremer, Freeman, Sellers and Harvey came 2nd with Messrs Durrant, Pavey, Pavey and Reeves at the rear of the prizes. Nearest the pin was Neil Davey and longest drive Kevin Hagen. One of my playing partners, Mr Paul Weston, seeing the marker on the 18th fairway commented that he did not go that far on his holiday, while Mr Mike Kirkham, another of our illustrious team, could not remember where he goes and I just broke wind.

The meal was followed by the Surrey AGM. The present committee were re-elected en bloc and our Chairman, Les Howkins, reported that the education day at Epsom GC, although a success, the attendance was disappointing and he hoped that in future events more course managers would encourage their staff to attend. He thanked the committee for the work they had done over the past year and looked forward to another successful year in 2012. The Treasurer's report was concise and acceptance of its content was proposed and seconded. Thanks to all those who contributed to the raffle prizes and the profit of £350 will go into the sections funds.

Brian Willmott

South West and South Wales Region



South Coast

As I sit writing this report the rain has finally arrived after such

a lovely October, and the leaves have turned and are coming down 24/7, so the majority of us will be clearing on a daily basis except Tony at Barton-on-Sea who probably doesn't even own a blower!

Since the clocks have turned it's now the start of a depressing four months of dark mornings and evenings and looking back I wonder how quick the season has gone. Those lovely early mornings with the sun coming up and not a golfer in sight to now trying to get to the 1st green before the golfers appear down the fairway in their droves same groups, same shots, same remarks can't beat it!

Our final golf competition was held at High Post GC, on December 6, played as a Texas Scramble for the first time in teams of three.

The course was in excellent condition for the time of year so thanks to Lauchlan Morrison and his team for all their efforts. A special thank you to High Post GC for allowing us courtesy and to the caterers for a great meal afterwards. Results: 1. K. Glass, D. Lee, D. Harfield, 60;

2. R. Hogarth, E. Cary, A. Magee, 60.2; 3. P. Wentworth, J. Pender and D. Cunliffe, 61.5. Nearest the Pin. D. Harfield.

A big thank you as always to our sponsors New Forest Farm Machinery and Blade who sponsor this event year in year out.

On a sad note our thoughts go out to the family and friends of Lewis Andrews, who was a member of the greenkeeping team at High Post whose life was cut short in an accident near his place of work. Lewis was a serious athlete who would have competed in the Beijing World Championships at triathlon.

Our Section Seminar will take place at Milton Abbey School on February 15 with Jim McKenzie MBE and Cameron McMillan as our main speakers, so please put this in your diary for a good day out.

As you read this Christmas and New Year have passed so that means only one thing - Harrogate the place to be for Education, Exhibition and Indulgence. Contact Jane Jones on 01454 270850 for details of accommodation.

Any one with any thing to report please contact your committee so it may be included in our reports.

Philip Wentworth



South West

Hi all, I have apologise to you all this month...I really don't have that much to report. I know, shocking to believe, I have no exciting tales to tell you all (maybe you could share some of yours with us)

As for the Section, 2012 fixtures will be with you all very shortly, we will send them out by email again, I feel that this method is working very well. If you are not receiving emails from me regarding the Section, please drop me a line and you will then be receiving all the e-mails you could ever wish for!

With regards to training, Paul Worster and myself are working hard to ensure we target what you guys are asking for (trust me, we are spending many hours on this!). Some workshops have already taken place and many more are in the pipeline, if there is anything you should want please feel free to contact either one of us.

As I finish (I did say this would be a short one this time.) I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and on behalf of the whole Section we would like to wish you all a Happy New Year!

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 Ltd; Countrywide; British Seed Houses; Headland; Avoncrop; Martyn Lane Golf Signs. Your support is very much appreciated by the whole Section.

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



South Wales

Hello Section Happy New Year, hope all of you guys have had a 2011 to remember and we all can make 2012 an even better year. As you know the committee has been changed and we are asking for as many of you as possible to contact myself, Gareth Knight (07595988512), or any of the other committee members with ideas thoughts or any information you wish to share. I would love for all of us to pull together as a Section let's talk more to each other and keep South Wales Greenkeeping a fantastic place to work.

Mike Stokes, Head Greenkeeper of Whitchurch, is putting a morning meeting together for neighbouring greenkeepers - something similar to the Links Forum meeting some of you guys are involved in. Mike's details are Tel: 07709241629 email thecoursemanager@aol.com please drop him an email or a call so some dates can be arranged.

The Winter Golf Tournament has taken place at Royal Porthcawl GC. Results will follow in next month's magazine.

Our Autumn Regional Seminar has taken place at the Oak Tree Centre. As many of us drove into the venue we probably thought "Where have we come to?" but it was an absolutely perfect location and venue thanks Jane and Steve for finding the venue and I'm sure we would love to return next year.

The day itself was a huge success all speakers we're fantastic and the event was attended by over 140 greenkeepers plus trade members I hope many of us have made new friends and contacts and have taken valuable information back to our day jobs and it was very pleasing to meet, greet and openly question the new CEO of BIGGA. Thank you for your honesty and you time to come and speak to us.

Harrogate is here I hope the cars are full and many of us are heading up. Not many places left - about 2 weeks left to book a place so give Jane Jones a call to book a last minute place.

Happy New Year guys.
Peter Holmstrom.

Section Notes

Please email your notes to
scott@bigga.co.uk
by the 5th of the month