

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Dominic Rodgers 2011 committee member, decided to stand down from the committee mid term and has now been replaced by Antony Kirwan, Antony returns to the committee after a two year absence.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