

have read everything that you need to know already. But what else goes on during Harrogate Week... yes, we get to catch up with many of our mates... yes, we get to have a few beers... and yes, what happens in Harrogate stays in Harrogate (I hope that this brings back some happy memories and puts a few smiles on your faces!)

We would also like to thank our patronage partners for 2012, Farmura, Countrywide, Headland, Eco-solve, TH Whites, Irritech Ltd, Avoncrop.

Very shortly the 2012 fixtures will be with you, and looking back on last year, each event had such a great turn out. Please do your very best to support at least one Section event during 2012, your support is the driving factor behind the whole section.

We also have a Facebook page for the South West 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.

See you all very soon,  
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## Devon and Cornwall



Hello all, Our January Meeting was held at Trevoze Golf and Country Club, Cornwall. The day was very well attended with 70 members either enjoying golf or course walks with Jonathan Wood, Course Manager. Jon took up post at Trevoze only three months ago, having previously worked as First Assistant Greenkeeper at Portmarnock Links Golf Club before spending the past five years as Deputy Course Manager at The Old Course, St Andrews, where he was also involved in the course preparation for The Open Championship in 2010.

Jon has settled in very well, making a good impression with the members and staff and achieving a lot in a short space of time! During the course walks the members saw some for the winter work being done, including bunker revetting and

alterations to the back of the 1st green. Jon also looked at future work to the course, this included extending the 4th tees back and changing the 13th hole trying to make them tougher par 5's.

The Course was in fantastic condition and played really well. The competition format was Individual Stableford playing for the Barenbrug Cup. 1. Lloyd Overy, Lake View; 2. Graham Clarke, Chulmleigh; 3. Mike Ellis, Lake View. The winner of the Longest Drive was Adam Bridgewater, Yelverton, and Nearest the Pin went to Jason Brooks, Torquay. Thanks to our sponsors for the day, Barenbrug and Martyn Lane Golf, for both sponsoring the event and providing the prizes for the day. After lunch there was an educational presentation delivered by Steve Gingell, of the STRL. The topic was on managing thatch and discussed the results from trials being conducted in conjunction with Keith Kensett using the Sand Injection Graden. A big thank you to Steve for giving up his time to deliver the presentation.

It was great to see a good number of Section members up at Harrogate again this year and it was great to see that numbers on the whole were significantly up on previous years. The feedback from both members and trade was very positive. A huge thank you to Graeme Gallimore and Anthony (Jacko) James for organising the minibuses for 18 members to travel up to Harrogate. Also a big thank you to all the sponsors who helped with the costs, full details of which, will follow in the April edition.

Congratulations to Colin Webber and Graeme Gallimore for achieving their Continued Professional Development Diploma after five years of 10 or more CPD points.

If you have any news from the Section, then please contact me.  
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## South Coast



First an apology for missing an entry last month, I think



**Jim Croxton**  
Chief Executive

**This time of year is a whirlwind with our own Exhibition and Educational conference in Harrogate swiftly followed by the FEGGA Conference and the GCSAA's Golf Industry Show. During this time the Canadian Superintendents Association has also held an exhibition, whilst closer to home many Regions and Sections are coordinating conferences and seminars. The quest to share best practice continues apace!**

All of these events are loyally supported by our supply industry and indeed could not take place without them. I would like to place on record our gratitude for the fantastic on-going support that we as an Association and you as members receive from the industry. Their investment in what we do is hugely important and I sincerely hope that our membership continues to support those who support them.

Following BTME we issued an online survey to all of our exhibitors and the responses have been both encouraging and informative. It was a successful event but needs now to become the minimum standard we aspire to for future Shows.

## The ten delegates, who were drawn from a wide variety of roles and facilities, gelled extremely well as a group and were a credit to their Association and their employers

One area of feedback that was in some ways inevitable but disappointing nonetheless was to hear that some companies who chose not to exhibit at BTME came in to the halls and attempted to do business with our visitors. I fully understand that BTME is not the right vehicle for every company but it is incredibly disrespectful to the companies that do choose to exhibit to be hijacked in this way and I would urge all of you to ensure that any supplier you know of who does this is told that such activity is unacceptable. BTME allows BIGGA to invest in first class education and member services and if we allow it to be undermined by a few we will all suffer in the long term.

On a more positive note it was a privilege during the Golf Industry Show to spend time with the BIGGA members who made up the Delegation sponsored by Bernhard and Company. The ten delegates, who were drawn from a wide variety of roles and facilities, gelled extremely well as a group and were a credit to their Association and their employers. The opportunity to take part in the very high level education on offer and to visit two fantastic golf facilities – TPC Summerlin and Paiute – and have full tours of the maintenance facilities, the courses and to be able to interact with the respective Superintendents was hugely valuable. It was interesting to see just how many photos were taken and notes made by the delegates as they witnessed the different operational methods that are used.

I would like to thank Bernhard and Company for continuing to provide this fantastic opportunity for our members. I know that the trip was extremely worthwhile and certainly memorable for all concerned.

Jim Croxton, BIGGA CEO