

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



SCOTLAND



AYRSHIRE

It's been a long time since the Section has had anything in the magazine and I would like to do a bit of catching up. The Section committee is now: Chairman - Jim Paton, Vice Chairman - Euan Grant, Past Chairman - George Morrison, Secretary - Derek Wilson, Committee members - Iain Barr, Frank Clarkson, Graeme King, Martin Lothian, Stephen Higgins.

The Section Spring outing was held over the links at Dundonald at the beginning of May. Thanks to the Frank and his staff for presenting the course for the day. There was an improved turnout this year and the Committee hope that this level of support will continue and even improve at the Autumn outing at Prestwick St. Nicholas on 1 October. Prize winners were as follows.

First Class: 1 Gregor Wilson; 2 Stephen McBlain; 3 Derek Wilson. Second Class: 1 Martin Lothian; 2 Iain Barr; 3 Kevin Wason. Trade: John Condron.

There will be a new name on the Harry Diamond Jug as last years' winner Iain MacDonald did not compete in this event.

The Section Committee would like to encourage members to get involved again in Section activities and as such are trying to arrange some small educational days.

These would take the format of around an hour's talk by selected speakers which will be arranged during the later months of the year.

Bernhards Grinders have agreed to come up and give a

demonstration of techniques in this line of machinery. This will provisionally be 10 or 11 September.

Rigby Taylor will arrange a visit to see round the training facility at Murray Park for anyone interested, date to be confirmed also.

Aquatrols are also willing to provide a speaker for a talk on wetting agent properties and a date for this will also be confirmed when we can tie up with a visit to this country by one of the company executives.

On the happy side of things since our last report, congratulations to our past Chairman George and Maggie on the birth of their second child Abbie, and also at about the same time George had his fortieth birthday. He hasn't been too well recently so get well too George. That's from Iain especially. Largs host the Scottish National tournament in June. If anyone has anything they would like included in the Section Report then please contact me on my mobile:

07840 724435 or by e-mail at jimp54@btinternet.com.

Jim Paton



CENTRAL

By the time you read this hopefully the weather will have improved and the second round of the pairs competition will have been completed. It's been a good start to this competition with everyone enjoying visiting each other's courses as well as the competitive element. The results are posted on www.biggacentralsection.org.uk after each round.

On the education front, we're hoping that John Kaminski of Penn State will give a seminar

on 23 or 24 July when he is over and once this is confirmed we will notify people in the normal way. Congratulations to Euan Kay on being awarded the best NC student in greenkeeping at Elmwood for 2012/13. Euan is currently working in a summer position at The Castle Course. Well done also to all the other students who have successfully past their respective courses.

Gordon Moir



EAST

Last month we held our Spring golf outing at Seahouses Golf Club, it was good to see a turnout of 26 golfers who made the longer than normal journey.

The section had put a bus on for this event to travel down and the banter was flowing both ways on the bus, we hope to repeat this for next year's outing to Goswick if we have plenty of interest.

Thanks to Seahouses for their hospitality and the warm welcome extended to our members, Alistair Holmes and his team had the golf course in great condition, and given the recent weather they have had in the area the course played very well indeed (

The mere Zephyr made scoring difficult on the day here are the results: Scratch Ross Prowse 76; 1st Class winner Kenny Mail 76 nett (bih); 1st Class runner up Scott Corrigan 76 nett; 2nd Class winner Chris Yeaman 76 nett; 2nd Class runner up George Thomson 78 nett; Trade winner Ian Lauder 70 nett; Veterans winner Alistair Holmes 80 nett; Best nett prize Sean Cunningham 80 nett; Nearest the pin prize Ryan McCulloch, Longest drive Grant Moran (think the wind died down to be

fair?) and our Guest prize went to Derek (over golfed) Scott from Scoonie GC.

Following the golf we had a short presentation from James Whittick (Greenbest Ltd) on their Purity soil improver, thanks James for a very informative talk.

It was also good to see our Scottish Chairman Andy O'Hara in attendance, it is much appreciated by our section and we hope to see you again later in the year.

The section can confirm that we have arranged a course walk over Muirfield Links to look over and discuss the preparations for this years Open Championship, this walk will be held on Tuesday 2 July at 2.30pm and will be CPD registered, the walk will consist of a tour of the course and a Q&A session with the Course Manager Colin Irvine.

This event has just 40 spaces, please get in contact with the section asap to place your interest in attending as this event will be open to all sections.

On a personal note I made the transition to the dark side if you like when I attended the Ayrshire spring golf meeting held at Dundonald Golf Links at the beginning of May, I was made very welcome and had a great days golf over a very good course, met some new colleagues and even managed to win a raffle prize which is unusual for me.

The section would like to welcome our newest member Robert King Mortonhall, we hope you enjoy BIGGA and we look forward to seeing you at our functions.

Until next month, I have a trivia question for you with a prize to the first person to email the correct answer, can you the name our Scottish member who has travelled more than Ernie Els to play golf this season, and to give you a clue, he always wins the raffle?

Scott Corrigan scottcorrigan4@aol.com or 07877098237



NORTH

Not a great deal for this month as it has been a bit quiet but we did have the Spring outing at Duff House Royal Golf Club so here are the winners:

Nearest the pin at the 6th Roy Donald; 9th Pat Allan; 13th Blair Young. Moving on to the sweep: 4; Gordon Leslie Duff House; 3rd Blair Young Aitkens; 2nd Lewis Valentine Moray; 1st Mike Braidwood Royal Aberdeen.

Trade Winner Blair Young Aitkens. The Committee trophy was won by our Chairman Robert Patterson.

Veterans: 2nd Roy Donald Oldmeldrum; 1st Brian Hunter McDonald.

The Apprentice trophy was won by Lewis Valentine Moray Golf Club. Class 3: 3rd Stephen Cocker Peterculter; 2nd Lewis Valentine Moray; 1st Mike Braidwood Royal Aberdeen. Class 2: 3rd Mark McClaren Royal Aberdeen; 2nd Kevin Spowart Royal Aberdeen; 1st Roy Donald Oldmeldrum. Class 1: 3rd place Robert Patterson Royal Aberdeen; 2nd Fraser Downie Peterculter; 1st Gordon Leslie Duff House. Scratch: 2nd place Neil Sadler; 1st Gary Tough from Letham Grange.

The Committee would like to thank Head Greenkeeper Gordon Leslie and his staff for a course presented in first class condition.

A big thank you to everybody you turned up and contributed to a great day those of you who were unable to attend missed a great day played in good spirit and in brilliant sunshine.

Some other news is Ross Macrae's apprentice at Turriff Golf Club was first in the BIGGA 2nd year student award so very well done to him.

Ross Macrae and myself travelled down to Douglas Park Golf Club in Glasgow to represent the North Section in the BIGGA v Secretaries.

Unfortunately we lost by one hole but the team won overall and retained the trophy.

Please get in touch if you have anything to report with Robert Patterson mob 07931639548 or Dale Robertson mob 07784517534

NORTHERN



NORTH EAST

As I had too much news last month's issue I can finish off talking about Michael McKenna's move to his new job in Dubai.

This comes after three years travelling the world working at the best courses home and abroad and talking with top turf professionals advancing his career.

He said he always believed from an apprentice just starting in this profession you have to work with the best at top courses to advance your career - this has been helped by two Head Greenkeepers.

Firstly David Simpson of Tyneside GC who was a great inspiration to him as an apprentice and Malcolm Lathan of Hexham GC who spent time educating him in modern methods he said he cannot thank them enough.

David Cole and Peter Haggerty at Loch Lomond advanced his understanding to a new level before taking the Internship in the States, during his time at Scioto CC he worked with Bob Becker who helped his chemical application skills.

He would also like to thank the following Carson Kamps of Lake Nona in Florida, Brendan Allan at The Hills in New Zealand and finally Mike O'Keefe Programme Manager at the Ohio State Global Intern Program.

He says he would recommend his program to anyone looking to advance their career.

After another course visit we have managed to recruit a few lads from Close House after explaining all of the benefits of joining BIGGA.

From a personal view I don't think you can beat the personal touch of explaining everything that members can get ranging from legal assistance to education plus much more.

We also have two new members from Percy Wood Country Park who have recently completed level 2 in Sportsturf. Their boss Simon Olver is coming to the end of his first year of a

sports turf degree through Myer-scough College - he says it's a lot of time and effort but worth it all. I think it's great many of our section members are taking full advantage of all the educational opportunities, keep pestering your boss to assist you with all these opportunities.

After a disappointing turnout of our recent Spring Competition an idea has been put forward by Simon Olver Course Manager of Percy Wood Golf & Country Retreat to have the summer golf day on a Saturday more people turning up.

Definitely a good idea but I wondered who would let us play on their course on a prime time and day and give us courtesy with out upsetting their members, so I asked Simon and now Percy Wood is booked for August 17 tee time is 10-12noon.

This competition is for BIGGA members, non-members and anyone involved in the turf industry.

Local companies are to be asked if they would like to sponsor this event, and play in this unique competition or just come along and enjoy the day.

Lloyds and Rigby Taylor are already on board, if anyone has any queries please call me on 07910 641745.

Jimmy



NORTH WEST

By the time this gets published everyone should have had a fixture list for this year. Please try and attend one of the events as it gives you a chance to meet fellow professionals and catch up.

Next is the summer tournament at Ormskirk golf club on 1 July, I expect this will be popular and would ask you to put your name down early to get a booking.

Please contact Phil Dewhurst on 07768180604 for details. The cricket match against the North Wales Section will be on 24 July please contact Nick Gray for details.

I can be contacted on 07840706738 or at jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk

Chris Sheehan



NORTHERN

The season's golf got underway at last at Hornsea Golf Club, they gave us a lovely welcome and looked after us, the weather held too for those brave souls who made the effort and a massive thanks to Mel for his dedicated support to the section and jumping in at short notice to co sponsor the event with Bathgate Sands. Mel and Mark Price (the MD of Bathgate) were great hosts and provided a fantastic prize table for the winners.

Div 1 winner Dave Collins; 2nd Bob Turner; 3rd Nigel Coultash; Div 2 winner Nigel Booth; 2nd Rob Walker; 3rd Andy Slingsby. Div 3 winner Ken Christie; 2nd Richard Smith. Nearest the pins went to Joe Walsh and Tracey Maddison from HQ. Trade winner was Ian Collett from Rigby Taylor.

And finally on the day another thank you to Mel for making sure Mr Jackson got home safely, the only thing missing was the old stalwart, our president Mr Cockburn who sadly could not make it as he was looking after his poorly wife.

She's now on the mend. Scarthingwell is next up then followed by our traditional match with our friends from Sheffield section in July. Anyone wishing to play please let me know. August 19th is the invitation day at Wetherby 2pm tee off. Autumn comp is on September 19 at Woodsome Hall tee off 1.45, and finally Christmas at Baildon December 12th with a 10am tee time. Congratulations to Andy Stanger for his appointment at Headingley Golf Club as new course manager.

Andy 07506407867 Andy.slingsby98@goolemail.com



SHEFFIELD

I trust that you are all well and as the season is in full swing you are all being lavished with the

Around The Green

praise that you rightly deserve. As you may have noticed in last month's magazine I am no longer able to serve as Secretary and that we have been looking for a member to fill this position.

After we had whittled the applicants down we were able to undergo an interview process to select the best possible candidate. I am pleased to announce that your new section Secretary is Neil Peters.

Neil stood out with his energy and drive to move the section forward. I hope that you will all give Neil your support and I also would like to wish Neil the best of luck.

Also with Neil now being a member of the committee we will have more time with him to study and reduce his handicap.

I hope that you have all received your fixture cards for the upcoming season and are personally looking forward to getting out on the course to see how your fellow greenkeepers are doing as the season goes on. Our first fixture of the year was held at Bondhay GC. There will be a report of this next month.

We'll be trying some different ideas through the 2013 golf season such as a variation of prizes on offer to our winners and also developing a two tier division to allow everyone a chance of winning a prize. As a committee we hope this may bring more members to events and when they do attend they will realise what they have been missing.

James Stevens



NORTH WALES

Starting with events, the North Wales/North West match was played on 31 May, I hope the best team won.

Our spring tournament was played at Bull Bay and the results are: 1 Andy Peel (home advantage!); 2 I Cooper; 3 Carl Crocher, Andy Peel and I Cooper qualify for the National later in the year, a big thank you goes to Andy Peel and everyone involved in giving the section a great day's golf and hospitality.

Other news, the golfers at Vale of Llangollen and Denbigh golf

clubs will hopefully be able to relax now knowing that I and John Ellis have successfully passed our first aid at work refresher and are qualified for another 3 years.

Our best wishes go to Gareth (bronco) Williams of Porthmadog Golf Club who recently had an operation; we all hope you have a speedy recovery. Please remember to keep checking not only our Facebook page but also the main BIGGA website for the latest events and news.

Pete Maybury 07756001187. E-mail petemayb66@aol.com Facebook, North Wales BIGGA.

MIDLAND



MIDLAND

The first golf day of the year was held at Robin Hood Golf Club on 14 May with 40 competitors. Despite the rain, the course was enjoyed by all, which is a testament to the talents of Course Manager Andy Wood and his team.

Andy has undertaken an extensive programme of redevelopment at Robin Hood, which is evident as you wander through the much changed parkland course. The greens were first class, both quick and free draining.

The day was sponsored by Banks Amenity Products Ltd, with Simon Banks presenting the prizes to the lucky winners: 1 S Scott; 2 D Stanley; 3 C Bromley; 4 S White; 5 A Wilkes; 6 A Brougham; 7 K Allen. Nearest the pin prizes were donated by Sherriffs, Countrywide, White-moss and Redtech and won by E Stant, N Ashman, C Bromley and J Moverley. The trade prize was won by Tony Cheese, Rigby Taylor. As always, many thanks to those who sponsored the event including Farols for the much needed drinks and snacks around the course.

Future events to look out for on the website include a trip to the FA's new National Football Centre at Burton on 17 June, a trip to the Bathgate quarry with Sherriff Amenity on 3 July and the Everris doubles draw. All

information including contact details are available at www.biggamidlandsection.co.uk

Many thanks to this month's calendar sponsor ALS. Please consider them when ordering course equipment, products and contract work, and finally, for all those who want to play at Penn GC in the summer tournament on 10 July, get your entries in to Rhys Thomas as early as possible, including payment. We would encourage pre-payment to make life easier on the day. All entry sheets including payment details are available on the website.

Ed Stant



EAST OF ENGLAND

Once again apologies for the lack of writing last month. I did have it all ready to go, however computer problems prevented me sending it. Next month I will type it on my iPhone!

Our annual seminar was held on 28 February at Newark Golf Club. Once again an excellent line up of speakers was on offer. Dan Lightfoot MG of Bearwood Lakes gave an interesting presentation about his club and course and the best ways of communicating renovation and improvement with the membership.

Stephen Kateley then demonstrated the latest in spray nozzle technology in particular the benefits of "low drift" nozzles.

The discussion with Ian Macmillan from The Great Turf Company about the benefits of activated microbial management and work carried out on course construction in Europe certainly proved the most thought provoking of the day.

There was also a stump grinding demonstration which was eye opening to people who had never seen one of these machines used before. Once again the famous Newark Cow Pie was well received by all at lunchtime. Many thanks to all the speakers on the day and again to Newark Golf Club for their hospitality.

Our golf days for this year have now been finalised: 22 May Market Rasen; 25 July

Newark; 19 September Norwood Park (near Newark) - match vs secretaries; 16 October Spalding - section AGM; 13 December Lincoln (Torksey) - Christmas Invitation Texas Scramble. Details of tee off times are still to be finalised but should anyone wish to play in these fun golf days should contact Bruce Hicks.

Steve Beverly



BB&O

As we approach the halfway mark in the year and with two of the golfing Majors completed hopefully everyone has got their courses through spring and maintenance renovation work, and can now enjoy the benefit of some decent conditions with clubs seeing a welcome boost in golfer numbers after what has been a tough couple of years for the golfing business.

Newbury and Crookham GC played host to the BB&O Spring meeting at the beginning of May.

The event sponsored by John Deere Dealership Farol's was well attended with over 50 people turning out on the day. Steve Austin and Peter Helps of Farol's welcomed everyone to the first tee and provided refreshments at the halfway point.

A big thank you must go to the Staff at Newbury and Crookham who were excellent hosts and in particular Alec Macindoe and his team who produced a cracking course which presented a great test and golfing challenge.

Rob Catlin of Amenity Technology returned as winner with 37 points followed closely in second by Adam King with 36 points, third on count back was Kevin Day 36 points and fourth place going to Brian Whitney 35 points. Nearest the pin was won by David Lyons and the longest drive went to Mark Hancock.

Swan Golf Designs and Countrywide sponsored the nearest the pin and longest drive. Once more a huge thank you must go to our sponsors for their continued support and commitment to the section.

The golf days simply could not happen without them.

The next event will be the

confirmed shortly and will be played in either August or September which doubles as the qualifier for the National Finals at our very own Frilford Heath G.C. Please check the website for details and entry forms www.bbogreenkeepers.co.uk

If anyone is interested in training be it chainsaw or spraying courses then please get in touch with our Regional Administrator Sandra Raper - sandra@bigga.co.uk

If anyone wishes to have their email address added to the BIGGA HQ system then please drop Sandra an e mail with your contact details.

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/Matt Nutter: bbosecretary@gmail.com. Alternatively keep up to date with what is happening in the BB&O section by following us on Twitter, Facebook and the web site: www.bbogreenkeepers.co.uk

The Stick



SOUTH EAST



SURREY

The great British Spring can be extremely fickle and can blow hot or cold, wet and windy. This year we have experienced many surprises, with a few warm spells encouraging a welcome boost in growth on the golf course, to a rapid change where temperatures have tested our sanity, leaving us to ponder what delights the weather has in store for us in June.

On the 18th April, the section headed for Epsom Downs GC where the golf, as well as the views, is absolutely stunning with the Capital seemingly only a few seven irons away.

Inspiring, challenging and never ordinary, a links on top of the downs renowned for its testing, undulating greens, and revered for the extraordinary friendliness of its members and staff gave us all a warm welcome on and off the fairways as we competed in a Spring Texas scramble.

The Richmond Rovers, led by Les Howkins, putted on greens that are legendary, consistent and very true. This demanding test of surprising speed and undulation gifted the Rovers a victory to savour on the downs.

Striking the longest drive with a Commando, Big Boy Russell, waltzed his way down the 11th with a Jumbo drive. Well-struck, Jim.

Kevin Boxhall whipped up a shot on the 17th dance floor to tie up The Nearest Pin at 4ft 8" - a short distance mentioned by many on the day.

To enter the Clubhouse is to take a step back in time. The Victorian Snooker table, the wooden panels that adorn the room, the ancient scoreboard, and the pictures of the Club Captains representing more than a century, all conspire to create an ambience which exudes history. Only the billows of cigar and cigarette smoke, that would surely have immersed the room in the early days, are missing now.

For lovers of golf and its history, Epsom is a club to visit,

not only to enjoy the traditional downland challenge it offers, but also to soak up the atmosphere of bygone days in the clubhouse. We look forward to going back in time - another time.

Mark Day



KENT

We are very blessed in our fair county to have, I honestly believe, the finest complete range of different golf courses in the land. They range from the famous tournament links venues to the rolling parkland courses the majority of us tend to on a daily basis.

Very few, however, could be described as so delightfully quirky as Chislehurst Golf Club that a strong contingent of us have played. Set in the middle of possibly the richest area of real estate in the region under the gaze of the imperious clubhouse which in a former life was Napoleon Bonapart's stately home, sits this superbly presented course.

Luckily, I think we managed to get around without upsetting anyone too much and we were soon sunning ourselves on the terrace trying to work out where it all went wrong again. One common suggestion as to why many of us struggled today was that for once we had to make do without Vic Maynard and his well stocked Ernest Doe's refreshment wagon. Vic was away on business on this occasion apparently but sorely missed. We look forward to seeing you soon mate!

After a lovely dinner in the very ornate dining room it was on to the prizes and usual good laugh with each other. One interesting topic of discussion was Foot Golf (check it out on You Tube). Corinthians Golf Club (formerly Fawkham Valley Golf Club) have now set up a Foot Golf course which has just opened.

This is really cracking fun and not as easy as you would think! Give it a go at Corinthians. We are planning a summer evening Foot Golf do in June or July followed by a barbecue so let us know if you will be up for it.

Nearly forgot to say that

Wayne Syers (who's had more clubs than Nick Faldo but now at London Club) won on 38 points. Well done to Nick Leech and Paul Rudkin who won Nearest pin and Longest drive respectively. Many thanks to Chislehurst Golf Club for hosting us and we look forward to taking you up on your offer of a return visit in a few years time.

Next week Kent's finest return to Upton Park as defending Home Counties football champions to defend their title against BB&O. After a resounding victory against an experienced Essex team last year we hope to retain the Toro/Lely Trophy.

Rob Holland
Premier Golf
www.kentgreenkeepers.com



EAST ANGLIA

Ufford Park got us off to a cracking start for the 2013 season. The course was in excellent condition thanks to Adrian Hollins and his merry men. The main sponsors for the day were Bartram Mowers, Ramsomes and Jacobsen who looked after us very well. Thank you. Those that bothered to practice through the winter are:

0 - 9 Handicap: 1st, Michael Buck, 35 Points; 2nd, Graham Hurren, 34 Points; 10 - 18 Handicap: 1st, Nick Chase, 35 Points; 2nd, John Andrews, 34 Points; 19 - 28 Handicap - Real Golfers; 1st, Andy Baker, 27 Points; 2nd, Richard Mitchell, 21 Points; G & T: 1st, Mark Bartram, 39 Points; 2nd, Terry Mills, 33 Points; Nearest Pin, 3rd Trevor Hurn, 10th Brian Lindores, 16th Brian Kemp; Longest Drive, Michael Buck

The two players going to the nationals are Michael Buck and Nick Chase. We wish them well. Other sponsors for the day were Aitkens and Toro. Thank you Ufford Park for a super day. Next stop Stowmarket 27 June.

NB - Ian made a very interesting speech!

The first topic was about us all getting involved more in environmental projects on our courses and taking part in the STRI competition. Bat boxes, bird boxes, wild flower areas

MID ANGLIA

Hello all and once again just as we seem to be turning the corner it decides to go cool on us which considering we are in mid may isn't ideal. Everywhere I go everybody is bemoaning the lack of growth. I'm sure things will improve and by the time you read this we will be in glorious mid summer.

Once again please make contact if you have any news and check our Facebook page for info on upcoming events such as our Summer event at Brookmans Park GC on August 6. We will have played at Beds & County GC so let's hope we are lucky with the weather and from what I can gauge will be a well-attended event.

Once again please advise us if you have any educational needs for your clubs or are interested in visiting the Arsenal FC training ground as numbers will be limited so get in asap to avoid missing out.

Darren

– anything like that makes a difference. The second topic was a viagra trip that went a bit wrong! Still he didn't fall out of bed!!! (Too much information)

Mick Lathrope



ESSEX

Our first golf day of the year was held at Frinton Golf Club, with 26 members and guests taking to the course. Andy Cracknell and his team have brought the course up to an exceptional standard, with fine slick greens and fairways that were nearly as short. To break with tradition we held lunch before we played golf, after which our Chairman Ian Wood presented last year's Chairman Mark Stopps with a small gift as a token of our appreciation for all he did for the section during his term of office.

The section would like to thank all those involved in making our day at Frinton such a pleasant experience. Results: Greenkeepers 1 Stuart Rogers 37 points; 2 Joss Neale 32 pts; 3 Liam Springett 32pts CB; 4 Andy Toomey 32 pts CB. Sponsors Larry Pearman 35 pts (Toro). Guest Paul Beecroft 34 pts. Nearest the pin 6th Hole Arnold Phipps-Jones; 13th Hole Craig Serafin.

The next golf day is on Thursday 15 August at Channels Golf Club for the National Qualifier. Bacon roll and coffee from 11.00am, 18 hole Stablford, plus a BBQ afterwards, £20 members/sponsors. £30 guests.

Membership clarification will be required prior to your playing at all events this year please. Details are on the website, under Competition Rules 2013 this is within the golf section of the section website. We have also decided to sell our raffle tickets before you play, rather than badger you afterwards. This we hope will speed things along and allow you all to site down for your dinner quicker upon your return from the course. Tickets will be on sale when you collect your scorecard.

In this, the last of the Section News as you have known it for

the past umpteen years, I would like to say, "That's all from me this month", look out for a new style of news in the next edition of GI Magazine.

Contact details 07764-862.337 or at essexbigga@talktalk.net plus our website www.essexbigga.co.uk

Arnold Phipps-Jones

SOUTH WEST & WALES



SOUTH WEST

Greetings from the South West section, great to see things moving on all of our courses after a period of "warmer" weather that verged on summer conditions over the bank holiday weekend, a rare occurrence indeed for a bank holiday.

A fantastic day was had by all at the first Section event of the year at Minchinhampton New Golf Club on 24 April.

After a nail-biting conclusion that required a countback 1st place was Nick Pusey & Mike Wootton on 47 points, 2nd were Ali Turner and Nathan Heavens also on 47 points and 3rd place went to Chris Sealey & Pete Schrader on 45 points.

Thanks to all competitors who turned out and most importantly a huge thank you to all at Minchinhampton for putting on a great day for everyone who attended.

The next events coming up are Section v Secretaries on 29 May at The Manor House Golf Club and Section Summer Tournament on 12 June at Kingsdown Golf Club. Remember that the Summer Tournament start time has been pushed back to 1pm so get your entries in to Adam as soon as possible to ensure your place in the field at this fantastic venue.

Finally, welcome to new section member Kevin Wilkins from Tewkesbury who has recently joined the section. Keep the news coming and hopefully we will see as many of you as possible at the upcoming events.

Jaey Goodchild
(07984422295 j.goodchild@bowood.org)



SOUTH COAST

As I write this in mid-May it's 11 degrees and raining again, hopefully by the time you read this it will be summer!

Here at Barton on "Britain's sunshine coast" we managed to get through the early May Pro-Am during the only decent spell of weather so far this year. A couple of light top dressings, speed rolled in a drying easterly wind and the stimp reading was right up where I wanted it.

One pro five putted so we must have got them right! Since then it's been back to routine, trying to keep everything cut and well presented.

Our next golf event is at the Army Golf Club near Aldershot on 4 July, this is another great venue and if you haven't played there make the effort to go – it's well worth it.

The cost of the day will be £25 with first tee off at 1pm, so everyone can go to work for the early morning routine tasks.

Entries as usual to Kevan Glass, Keepers Cottage, Brokenhurst Manor G.C. Sway Road, Brokenhurst, Hants. SO42 7SG, information glassy20003@hotmail.com, all payments to be received before the day please.

Congratulations to Jon Worrall on achieving his level 3 qualification in excellent time, I assume it will be with a distinction as I wouldn't expect anything else from you Jon!

Tony Gadd



SOUTH WALES

I have just read through what I wrote for ATG this month last year and it started "I feel it in my fingers I feel it in my toes" that famous Wet, Wet Wet song, the last six weeks couldn't be further from that.

In 2012 April was a complete washout cancelling many events, but this year the end of

April and through May has been beautifully warm and dry.

Our spring seminar held at Royal Porthcawl GC was a huge success, record numbers in attendance.

Comments included "one of the best seminars South Wales has hosted" and I would like to thank Gareth Knight for putting the day together, The speakers, Rhydian EnviroSports, Mark Hunt Headland Amenity, Adam Pounds Tillers turf, Richard Japes Sports Metals, Kevin Scares Turf Keeper and the one and only Steve Chappell of Gleneagles were terrific.

Thanks to the sponsors of the day Countrywide - and of course without you guys attending we could not hold these events.

As many of you reading this will already be aware our Secretary Gareth Knight will be moving on to pastures new albeit very sandy pastures. I and the rest of the section would like to thank you for the hard work you have put into our section and wish you every success in the future for you and your young family.

With Gareth's departure Paul Handy of Newport Golf Club will take the reins of Secretary and Steve Lloyd of Burghill Valley Golf Club will take the Chairman's role until the AGM held in October at Haverfordwest Golf Club where all members will be able to stand for all committee positions.

All members by now should have received an email or letter from Paul and Steve explaining their positions and how they are looking to push the section forward.

We hope all patrons will continue to support this section and we will continue to grow our membership base and bring back some elapsed members.

Contact Paul Handy on 07796 266925, Steve Lloyd on 07578 276082 and Peter Holmstrom on 07876 440599.

Our next golf meeting is the Rigby Taylor Matchplay Pairs, to be held at Radyr Golf Club on 4 July. Tee off 12pm the format is greensomes foursomes stableford.

The most points will become the new Rigby Taylor Champions.

Please contact any of the above to book your pair anyone looking for a partner please contact us and I will supply one.

Peter H