

in the evening, and Andy Cornes for providing refreshments at the 10th tee. Many thanks also to the North West Patrons and other companies for their support in helping to swell the prize table.

The next get together will be the presidents cup & AGM at Wilmslow on December 5th. Get your entries in early, including a cheque for £20, to Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Clubmore, Liverpool, L4 9RB. Bill's telephone number – 01512 844416. All competitors to bring a bottle so everybody wins a prize.

That's it for now, but any news or queries contact me on 01517 245412 or 07761 583387.

Bert Cross

Northern

What a fantastic day we had at Bingley St Ives for our Invitational Golf Day, sponsored by Rigby Taylor. Sixty competitors played for some fantastic prizes on a well set up course. The weather on the day was just perfect for golf. Joe Baxter and his team must be praised for the condition of the course as the day before we had had a deluge. Another big thanks must go to the caterers, as the food was some of the best I have had at a golf event. Thanks to everyone at Bingley for the good time had by all. The results were as follows:- 1. I. Pullan & A. Slingsby, Hollins Hall, 43 pts; 2. M. Gumeniuk & J. Whalley, Bingley, 42 pts. 3. A. Baxter & A. Taylor, Bingley, 41pts (BIH); 4. J. Baxter & A. Scarborough, Bingley, 41pts. Nearest the pin A. Taylor 18' 7". Nearest the Line S. Wild. As you can see Bingley had a great day as we all did!

A week or so after the golf event the section was challenged to a football match by Rigby Taylor at Syngenta sports fields in Huddersfield. A total of 12 greenkeepers turned up with thoughts of glory on the field of battle. Well, what can I say in our defence, except I don't think we had one! We were soundly beaten 12-0! Thanks to all the lads who came as we all had a good time though my legs ached for a week after. Thanks to Mike, from RT, for organising the event - we will try harder next year.

As I write these notes we are about a week away from the Autumn Tournament and AGM at Thirsk and Northallerton, sponsored by Glen Farrow, the irrigation and total water company. A full report of golfing and AGM matters will be in my next report.

Congratulations to Simon Heppenstall in his new job as area representative with Rigby Taylor.

Our last golfing event of the year is the Christmas tournament taking place at Crosland Heath Golf Club on Tuesday, December 3. The cost of this event is the usual £15 with the normal format on the day.

I am at present trying to arrange a factory visit to Textron in Ipswich in late Feb or early March of 2003. It will be open to any Head Greenkeeper or Course Manager interested. It

will involve a tour of the factory and an in-depth look at the full Textron range of machinery. If you are interested please get in touch with either Theo Wilson or myself.

I hope your autumn has been kind to you so far.

David Thackray, 16 Westwood Ave, Eccleshill, Bradford, West York's, BD2 2NJ, Tel No ; 01274 640739, Mob No; 07976876264 E mai.

Dthackray@aol.com

David Thackray



MIDLAND REGION
Peter Larter
Tel: 01476 550115

The Midland Region Educational Seminar will be held at Hinckley Golf Club on Wednesday 27 November 2002. Open to all - Non Members welcome. Cost: £25 including lunch etc. Speakers include: Peter McEvoy - Walker Cup Captain; Daniel Binns BSc STRI - Green Reconstruction; Richard Minton - Spraying Legally; Toby Morel - Grass Seed Production; Peter McCrainor - Lubricants Made Easy plus BIGGA HQ staff and others. Invitations have already been posted to all BIGGA members. If you haven't had yours contact Peter Larter, Midland Region Administrator on 01476 550115.

Peter Larter

BB&O

What an incredible month September has turned out for us all. My course, like most in this area, has the colour of the Kalahari Desert with about as much moisture as an oven baked cheesecake! It certainly leads to firm putting greens but any slight problem with the watering system becomes a blight on the course very quickly.

We have just played our autumn competition at Ellesborough Golf Club. This proved a very challenging course, set in the Chilterns with superb views to look at when trekking the hills and downs of the terrain. A good hike for strengthening the leg muscles. No wonder Bill Clinton chooses to play here when staying at Chequers - it works off the calories and worries of life all in one sweep. Thanks to Dave Goodchild and his team for presenting a fiery test for our day. The greens were very fast indeed, which had a few of us putting beyond the three mark. Also thanks to Bob Weed, the Cub Manager, for helping to organise the set-up for the day. The competition was sponsored by Headland with Ian Richardson ensuring we got off to a good start. Later we had beverages at the 6th hole, kindly provided by Johnny Beck. How good does bacon taste out in the open air?

The results for the day were as follows: 1. Simon Austin, Badgemore Park GC, 42 pts; 2. John Ryan, Browns Ltd, 40 pts; 3. Brian Benzie,

Harleyford GC, 35 pts. Nearest Pin. Dean Thatcher, Badgemore Park GC. Longest Drive. Simon Austin, Badgemore Park GC.

All in all a great day with superb weather ending with a sumptuous meal that would have thrown a weight watcher's diet completely off the scale. Before the meal we had the AGM. This covered the financial position for the Section, which I am pleased to report continues to remain in good health. The venues organised for next year were released and were well received by those present. These will be published on a fixture card to be sent to each member in February 2003 and I will list the venues in next month's magazine. T.H.White has kindly sponsored the fixture card for the second year. We had considered having After Dinner Speakers but after some discussion it was decided that our golf days are long enough. This has been happily accepted by the committee. In addition to the usual four competitions held by the BBO Section, Peter Larter is organising a very special competition to be held in October next year so watch this space for details in the near future.

The committee now stands as follows;
Chairman/Treasurer. Lindsay Anderson;
Secretary. David Haskell-Craig;

Committee Helpers. John Scoones, Ray Clark, Adrian Cooper; Trade Member Mark Day, Tacit.

As I said in last month's Section News, I will be giving a presentation at the Regional Seminar held at Hinckley GC, on Wednesday, November 27. It will be good to meet up for a discussion on any items you may have at the venue so I hope to meet some of you there. If you have any items you wish the committee to consider, please send them to me at my home address and I assure you they will get the attention they deserve. Have a good lead in to the Christmas period with Michrodocium free putting greens!

David Haskell-Craig

Midland

I have the task of somewhat belatedly announcing the death of two members of the Midland Section. Roger Pullen from Blackwell Golf Club and Robert Coxall of Stafford Castle Golf Club. Our condolences go out to the respective families at this sad time. Both will be sadly missed.

The Autumn Tournament was held at The Forest of Arden. It was great having the opportunity to play this championship course on a pleasant sunny day, and as would be expected it was in great nick. Our thanks to the prize sponsors Avoncrop, who were represented on the day by Mark Raynor and Chris Briggs, and John Hammond of Bathgate for the most welcome array of liquid refreshment at the halfway house. We should also like to thank Scotts, in the guise of Nick Martin, for their sponsorship of this year's doubles knockout Tournament and their proposal to repeat the operation next year.

This year's final was held at Celtic Manor, with Rob Shaw and Mike Gash running out worthy winners, against Mike Hughes and Mark Cutler.

Don't forget AGM Stratford-on-Avon Golf Club 4.15pm Tuesday, December 10.

Peter J Richmond

East Midlands

This year's Autumn tournament was held at the delightful Horsley Lodge Golf Club on September 17, although the turnout was poor (30 members) those that did attend enjoyed a first class day. Thanks to Russell Allen and his staff for presenting an excellent golf course for us to play and also to everyone else at the club for making our day so enjoyable. Even though the sun did not shine it was still a pleasant autumn day. The scores were as follows:

Best Gross: Ian Marshall, Wellingborough, 77. Best Nett: Ian Needham, Beedles Lake, 79-9-70. Cat 1. 1. D. Leatherland, Kedleston, 79-9-70; 2. C. Brown, Horsley Lodge, 79-6-73. Cat 2. 1. S. Goode, Kilworth Springs, 85-10-75; 2. D. James, Luffenham Heath, 92-16-76. Cat 3. 1. P. Roe, Kedleston, 98-28-70. 2. M. Hopkins, Kirby Muxloe, 93-19-74. Trade & Associate: 1. P. Larter, BIGGA RA, 76-8-68; 2. S. Hedley, Boughton Loam, 88-12-76.

Finally, I would like to, on behalf of all members, thank Simon Banks, of Banks Amenity Products, for sponsoring the day.

Next year's Autumn tournament will be held at Overstone Park on September 5. The winning numbers for the 100 draw were as follows: 1. £60 No. 46. Sandra James. 2. £25 No. 14. Andy McGreal. 3. No. 26. £15 Danny Brown.

In the Market Harborough Am-Am Simon Banks, Adie Porter, Ian Needham and I finished fifth with a medal score of 129 (11 under par), playing for the Banks Amenity Products team.

Finally I would like to wish all members a Merry Christmas and New Year and on behalf of all Section members thank all those trade and Greenkeeper Members for their valuable support throughout the year.

Antony Bindley call Duncan on the same number.

Jason Bean



SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES
Paula Humphries
Tel: 01288 352 194

The South West/South Wales Region trip to Harrogate will again have coach travel sponsored by Amenity Technology. There are 60 places available only this year and will be issued on a first come/first served basis. Packages are available at £130 and £200 p.p. Details and booking forms available from either Paula Humphries 01288 352194 or from your Section Secretaries. Dates are 20 - 23 Jan, 2003.

Paula Humphries

Devon & Cornwall

I start my report this month with the news that our Regional Administrator Paula Humphries has had to return to hospital for treatment. I am sure all members wish her a speedy recovery and look forward to meeting her again very soon.

The Devon Garden Machinery Section meeting and AGM will be held at Bude & North Cornwall Golf Club on Wednesday, November 13. The morning's golf will be of foursome format for the Toro Trophy with the prizes being kindly donated by Devon Garden Machinery and Lely. As usual the non-golfers' course walk will leave the clubhouse at approximately 10.30am. The Section's AGM will conclude the day.

Once again Christmas is fast approaching, so what better way to start the festive season than by attending our PJ Flegg-sponsored Christmas meeting which will be held at Okehampton Golf Club on Tuesday, December 10. Please note that the meeting will this year take place on Tuesday and not Wednesday. As in previous years numbers will be limited to the first 80 members, so to avoid disappointment please return your entry with correct money as soon as possible and before the closing date.

The day will start as usual with golfing members playing for the PJ Flegg Trophy with the format being greensomes. For those of you not wishing to play golf, the Course walk will start from the clubhouse at approximately 10.30am. Following lunch our afternoon cabaret and raffles will conclude the day.

The Regional Seminar to be held at Cannington College will this year take place over two days from Wednesday 20th November to Thursday, November 21. The theme for day one will be back to basics with day two being taken by Frank Newbury. For more details contact Paula Humphries 01288 352194.

Richard Whyman

South Coast

After enjoying a superb weekend of Ryder Cup magic, where Irishman Paul McGinley holed the winning putt, our Section arrived at Hayling Golf Club, a club with an Irish connection in Course Manager, Ronan McKeown. The superb links were the venue for our autumn tournament sponsored by Tacit. Our tournament organiser, Chris Sturgess, has given us a superb fixture list this year and Hayling was playing at its best, even the wind stayed away although the course was tough enough without it! The standard of golf was excellent as we all tried to master the art of links 'bump and run' and overall winners on the day were:- Tacit Trophy Winner. Sid Cutler, 40 pts (BIH); 2. Alan Magee, 40 pts; 3. Kevin Hills, 38 pts; 4. Kevin Glass, 38 pts; Trade Prize. Trevor Simmonds; Longest Drive, Shane Hodgkins; Nearest the Pin, Lauchlan Millar.

Many thanks to Hayling Golf Club for their superb hospitality and, in particular, the Captain who was a superb host during the day and rightly very proud of the very impressive new

clubhouse; to Ronan and his hard working team for presenting the course in such magnificent condition and to the catering staff for a superb meal. As ever, a huge vote of thanks go to our sponsor, Tacit, without whom the day would not be possible. We were all saddened to hear that our Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries, has been taken ill again. We certainly missed Paula's company on the day and as a Section our thoughts are with her and her family and we wish her a speedy recovery. Take care Paula!

The Section AGM was held before the dinner, which ran smoothly. The committee remains the same as last year although Chairman, Tony Gadd, reported to the floor that two more committee members were needed. Any interested parties please contact Tony or any of the committee members. We only meet four times a year, so a high level of commitment is not required, but we are looking for people to put something back into our Association and industry.

The main theme that kept repeating itself during the AGM was the apathy among our very large Section, particularly regarding educational events. Providing quality training is one of BIGGA's priorities as the 'Continue to Learn' programme continues. We all have a duty to continue our personal professional development if we are to change our image and people's perception about our industry. We can all make excuses about not attending seminars and other educational events but we need you all to make the effort! As a committee we endeavour to make these events as interesting as possible and it is soul destroying that so few of you can be bothered to turn up. So let's see some more faces next time. If you want particular speakers or courses run then let me know and we will try to arrange it.

Our next port of call will be the High Post Golf Club on Thursday, December 5 for the Turkey Trot. Please forward your cheques for £18 to Chris Sturgess. High Post is the home club of Don Friend who has recently retired after 15 years service. We hope you have a long and happy retirement Don!

As I said before, if you have any news for next month's column or a course you would like to see run in the Section then give me a ring.

01202 661106. I'm waiting for that first call

Until next month

Alex McCombie



SOUTH EAST
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260 956

Kent

At last someone has replied to my begging for some news. Mark Smith from St Augustines GC where I started playing golf as a junior back in 1983. He e-mailed me with news about his eye. Those who know Mark will know how he

injured himself while striking at work about eight years ago. A piece of metal from the striker blade shot up under his eye protector and seriously damaged his eye. Mark has had 11 operations over the years and now I'm afraid he has lost his eye and will have a false one fitted soon. Those of you who know Mark know what he has been through but we all hope he can now get his career and life back on track. Some good news from Mark is that his wife, Jo, is expecting their fourth child soon. It is good to hear Mark that your third eye is working well though! I wish you and your family all the best for the future.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Turkey Trot at North Foreland on the November 27. I'm sure Steve and Graham will have a fine course set up for us and hope there is not a cold north east wind blowing over the cliff tops.

Any news or views please drop me a line at JRBATKHGOLF@AOL.COM or call my office on 01732 875020.

Jason Bean

London

I know, I know, it's been a while since I wrote a report but it appears to have been a very quiet period here in the London Section, so I decided to save up any news I had and report it in one big hit!

Going back to our Spring Meeting at Wyke Green, in April, it produced the sort of weather, which we could probably do with a drop of now. Torrential rain meant that we had to abandon our round at the Halfway House (good timing or what), the sausage rolls and coffee softening the blow somewhat. The Spring Meeting Trophy and all the prizes, kindly supplied and sponsored by Mark Day, of Tacit, were carried over to our next meeting. Our sincere thanks go to Tony Dyke and his staff for producing a course of very high quality and to Wyke Green golf club for their hospitality.

So on to our Summer Meeting held at Hendon Golf Club. We were blessed with good weather and Phil Garrod from Aldenham Golf Club took a belated Spring Meeting trophy and also qualified for the National Championship with the best Gross score of the day. Ben Knowles-Jackson also qualified with the best Nett score. Well done to both. Once again thanks to Mark Day for all the hard work, not only with the prizes carried over from Wyke Green but also for organising the nearest the pin, longest drive and all the flags for the day. Our raffle was sponsored by Barry McCloskey, of Avoncrop, with some fabulous prizes. Thanks Barry. The course was in fine condition and provided a very good test of golf and our appreciation goes to new Course Manager Bobby McMillan and his staff and also to Gavin Kyle, who has moved onto pastures new as Course Manager at Knowle Park, for all his hard work leading up to the event, not only on the course but in helping me to set it up in the first place. We welcome Bobby to the Section and wish both he and Gavin the very best in their new posts.

The Autumn meeting was held at Porter's Park

Golf Club on August 21. Much to my disappointment I was unable to attend but I know a good day was had by all. Overall winner was Dave Fosh, from Stockley Park Golf Club, with Hadley Wood's, James Lomas, runner-up, My thanks go to Rob Washbrook for stepping into the breach and organising everything on the day and also to Alan Percival and Turner Groundcare for their kind sponsorship. Course Manager, Martin Smith, and his staff once again presented the course in superb condition although I did hear a rumour going round that it's never been quite the same since I left! Thanks Martin and Porter's Park Golf Club for a successful day.

News from around the Section over the past few months has seen John Merriman leaving Batchworth Park to take up the Course Manager's position at Mid-Herts Golf Club and Roy Hadler returning to Wyke Green Golf Club to work with Tony Dyke and his team after a two year absence. Good Luck to both.

Paul Clark

Essex

Firstly, we would like to wish Dominic Rodgers a speedy recovery after being taken into hospital two days before our golf day at Upminster GC (hurry up Dom, the scorecards are a nightmare).

Secondly, congratulations to Jon Selwood and Nicky on the birth of a baby boy, Frankie 7lbs 6oz. The staff from Abridge say he is a changed man now and always smiling. What do they mean?

Thirdly, no luck at this year's National Championship for the Section's two qualifiers. Our Chairman Carl and Anthony Kirwin found both courses very tough but were complimentary, particularly regarding Hillside, which they rated along with some of the best in the world.

Our last golf competition was held at Upminster Golf Club on 2nd October. Our main sponsors were Gem Professional and our thanks go to Richard Haynes. The day started off on a damp note but despite the dark clouds hovering the rain kept at bay for the competitors. A big thank you to Upminster Golf Club and John Collintine, the Club Secretary, for providing the venue; to Josie and all the staff for their friendly hospitality and a superb meal. Lastly thank you to the new Headman, Doug Fernie, and his green staff on producing an excellent track despite the recent long dry spell (Hope to see you all at the next golf day).

Now on to the prize winners. There were two main categories 0-14 and 15-28. 0-14. 1. and overall winner N. Morris, 40pts; 2. R. Dunmow, 35pts; 3. R. Clark, 34pts. 15-28. 1. R. Linnen, 34pts; 2. P. Bannock, 32pts; 3. D. Clark, 29pts. Guest prize. 1. L. Downset, 35pts 2. J. Hawkins, 32pts (19 Pts on the back 9). Trade 1.S. Banks, 34pts; Longest Drive. Thank you to sponsors Greenkeeper Supply Company. R. Hare; Nearest the Pin. Thank you to sponsors Greenkeeper Supply Company. J. Dilliway.

Finally, thank you to the following Rigby Taylor (guest prize), Sherriff Amenity, D.F.L, Tacit, Banks

Amenity and Avoncrop for providing the raffle.

Our next event is an evening lecture at Writtle College on November 26. We need your support, bring a member of your club and they may learn something too. On the last two occasions the numbers have been very poor. John Sinclair puts a lot of hard work into getting guest speakers so please support him. Further details will follow soon and if you have any problems please call John 01702 589063.

Please put a note in your diary for our AGM/Christmas Golf Competition and the Golfer of the Year award, to be held at Stock Brook Manor on Thursday, November 28. Please would all overall winners for 2002 make a big effort to attend, not only to collect their trophy or cup but Arnold, from Stock Brook, has kindly offered to take a group photograph to be published in the magazine.

It was nice to see some new faces at Upminster, hope you enjoyed yourselves. Let's finish the year with a good turn out for the last two events. Finally if you are not receiving the flyers or have any problems or comments, please contact me on 01245 603131 or on my new mobile 07984 867939.

Martin Forrester.

Sussex

Wednesday, September 25 turned out to be a beautiful warm and sunny day.

How am I so sure you say, because it was the Autumn meeting. This was held at Mannings Heath which is always a popular venue with us.

The day was sponsored by Rigby Taylor who were represented by Mike Ring, who amazed us with his new golf swing, (one day soon he is going to win a prize).

So on this beautiful day 35 Greenkeepers and guests turned up to take full advantage of Mannings Heath's hospitality and we started off with a 9 hole Texas Scramble held on the Kingfisher Course. With my team leading the way. Then 10 minutes later Billy picking us up as I'd managed to miss the 2nd tee but found the 18th. Yet again thanks for the lift Billy.

After lunch an 18 hole Stableford on the water full course, which I found just a little too hard.

As always the course was in excellent condition due to the hard work of Billy McMillan and his team. I would also like to pass our thanks on to the Clubhouse staff who made the day run very smooth.

So onto the results: The morning round winners were R. Short, C. Whybourne, G. Ogilvie & N. Beadle. In the afternoon - Nearest the pin:- M. Sommerfield. Longest Drive - R. Short. Guest prize was picked up by C. Allen. 1. R. Day, 39pts; 2. R. Kanel, 37pts; 3. M. Sommerfield, 36pts.

Well onto the Turkey Trot which will be on Friday, December 20 at you know where.

Remember, any information you have which may be of interest to us you can contact me on 07876 233253.

Jon Budd

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This competition is not open to BIGGA Staff or non-members. The solution to the October Turftime Teaser was MC & MA Stewart (Haulage) Ltd. This was correctly answered by Rob Williams, Herefordshire Golf Club.

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June 2002; Finding Fungi; Greetham Valley GC profile; Tyres; Calabria GC profile; Lakes and Ponds; Poa Annua - Jim Arthur

July 2002; Open preview; Turf; Steve Isacss; Emissions; Grinding; Rotary Mowers; BTME preview; Sandy McDivot

August 2002; BIGGA Golf Day; Open review; Talking Heads - Education & training; Trees; Dr Kate Entwistle; Pwllheli GC; Weather; Compact Tractors; Saltex preview

September 2002; National Championship Preview; Irrigation; Non Grass Cutters; Hawkstone Park; Careers in Greenkeeping

October 2002; Saltex Review; Golden and Silver Key Supporters; Environment Awards; Health & Safety; Sustainable Use of Pesticides



Where has all the rain gone?



Since writing my October article and commenting on the dreadful weather, I haven't seen a drop of rain for nearly six weeks now and the golf course is beginning to look quite dry. But after our experience this time last year I am not complaining and the course will at least go into winter fairly dry. I think you will agree with me that this makes planning extremely difficult. Last year it was too wet and now we are too dry for some jobs, but then that is the challenge of greenkeeping.

The past four weeks have been a busy time for me and the Association. Back in September I was a guest of the Swedish Greenkeepers Association and presented a paper at their education conference in Vasterås, just north of Stockholm. Fortunately for me the vast majority of them could understand and speak English so, not unlike Harrogate, I could socialise with them after the conference. Unfortunately though, not being able to understand or speak Swedish I relied on them to explain the other presentations later! Again like Harrogate it was nice to meet with people who put your problems into perspective. I thought golfers started to play early over here but can you imagine people playing 24 hours a day certainly in the north of the country where greens had to be cut twice a day due to the light and amount of growth, and also not being able to see your course for several months due to a covering of snow or indeed total darkness! This was in total contrast to that of Bruce Williams, their principal speaker, who presented two superb papers. Bruce works at the Los Angeles Country Club and has a reasonably nice climate year round although still encounters many problems.

Regrettably while I was away it was the Toro Student Of The Year awards at Headquarters which my Vice-Chairman, George Brown attended. I understand all finalists were of an extremely high standard and congratulations must go to you all, in particular Murray Long who came out on top. I know he is in for a super prize and one that can only benefit his future. Thanks again to Toro for their continued support of this event.

On my return from Sweden I picked up a quick change of clothes and headed off up to the National Championship. I am sure most of you will have heard or read in other reports I did not have one of my better days on the course. Hillside was truly magnificent and it was a good walk spoiled for me as I could only manage one over (level fives that is not level par) but

like a true professional I bettered that score by 12 at Hesketh the following day, but had to take some ribbing in between times.

Congratulations to Ian Semple the overall winner and all other prize winners and a big thank you to both greenkeeping teams and sponsors for helping to make our championships such a success. It was much appreciated by all who took part.

And finally, to conclude this busy period, we have had a board meeting and I have attended a golf day and AGM of the Mid Anglia Section. This was held at Stocks Hotel & Golf Club in Aldbury. Thanks must go to that familiar face and BIGGA supporter, Mark Ellis, and his team for a super golf course and the Section committee for all their hard work. This section like many others spoke of what they had accomplished within the year with regards to tournaments and education but weren't supported as well as they would have liked! Come on guys. Let your Section committees know what you want.

With regard to the rest of the month I have a couple of Sections to visit and an invitation to speak in Denmark at their annual conference and on my return I will be at Scotsturf for two days where I look forward to seeing you on the BIGGA stand. I will be reporting on these in my next article.

And finally, you should have received your forms for BTME/Clubhouse. Get them back to Headquarters early to secure the course you want.

It's going to be a busy week!

Richard Barker
National Chairman