

as Deputy. Your in the big league now chap - you'll be cursing clay, not paying for it! Also, good luck to G. Wallace, the new Course Manager at Puckrup Hall.

With sadness, I have the unfortunate duty of reporting the sudden passing away of Robbie Konieczka, Course Manager of Shrewsbury GC. All members I'm sure shall join the committee in expressing their deepest and most sincere condolences to his partner, family and friends.

Charmed life or what! M. Cutler has won a trip to Australia, via a daytime BMRE radio competition. Mike, do your chaps have nothing better to do? Well done Mark, have a great time. Don't forget the corked hat.

As you may know BIGGA members get up to 20% off clothing, footwear and protective wear etc. from Arco. Until recently, this deal was only available through its Hull branch. Nigel Couchman, via extensive negotiations has secured the same deal with Arco's West Bromwich branch. Such thus affords opportunity to try items on, as well as mail ordering. Tel. 01215 006060. Rather sh'plendid Nigel.

By Jove!. I've no chance of including my meandering spiel in this month's Around the Green. What was that, thank the Lord for such mercies. Please keep your news coming in. Such is much appreciated, thank you. Speak to you next month regarding your thoughts on the questionnaires.

Sean McDade

## BB&O

Hopefully spring is not too far away now with daylight becoming longer, my SAD syndrome will disappear for another year, we can look forward to the smell of freshly cut grass and the vivid green of new leaves on the trees. Sounds great but now to more important matters.

A course visit has been arranged to The Grove at Watford. The Grove is a new development due to open later this year, the course was designed by Kyle Phillips and at 7170 yds, par 72 will be a formidable test. There is also a 227 bedroom 5 star hotel on site. Our visit will take place on Tuesday, March 11 at 1pm. Please let me know if you wish to attend on 01442 842627 or mail

jim.cassidy@ashridgegolfclub.ltd.uk. My thanks go to Phillip Chiverton, Course Manager at The Grove, for allowing this to take place. For a little more information check out thegrove.co.uk

Just a reminder, our first golf meeting is at The Bedfordshire GC on May 16. Entry fees will be £25 for over 25's and £15 for under 25's. The scratch and handicap winners of the afternoon round will be sponsored to enter the National tournament to take place at Coxmoor and Hollinwell in Nottinghamshire.

Any news regarding chronic depression or acts

of overwatering contact me on the above.

Jim Cassidy

## East Midlands

This year's visit to Harrogate for the BTME was again a great experience for all of those who attended. Again, there was a great deal to see and do. Various workshops and the conference, not to mention the show itself with the addition of the ClubHouse show. Unfortunately our own Section did not seem to be very well represented with only the usual die hard members in attendance. But on a positive side I am sure we will be able to better this next year.

If you have not yet received your entry form for this years Spring Tournament at Ashbourne GC on May 15, please get in touch with me as soon as possible, and I will forward you a copy. Also a reminder to all members: please ensure that your entry form and correct remittance is returned to me before the closing date if you wish to play. The fixtures for the rest of the year are as follows: E. Midlands Vs East of England, August 13, Beedles Lake GC 3.45pm. Autumn Tournament, Overstone Park GC. September 5. 1pm. AGM TBA. Christmas Tournament, Kilworth Springs GC; December 11- 10:30pm

Antony Bindley



## Devon & Cornwall

Hi my name is Steve Evans. I have taken over from Richard Whyman as your new Section Administrator. Richard's enthusiasm and hard work over the past 13 years has been a great asset, not only to the Devon and Cornwall Section, but to BIGGA as a whole. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Richard every success in his new role as Course Manager at Burnham and Berrow Golf Club.

Our first meeting of 2003 was held at East Devon Golf Club in January. The day started with David Singleton, of Barenbrug, and John Palfrey starting our golfing members for the Barenbrug Trophy. After an excellent lunch our sponsor David Singleton from Barenbrug Seeds presented the prizes to:- 1. Simon Coombes, Dainton Park, 40pts; 2. Alan Gawman, St Mellion 28pts; 3. Nobby Clarke, Crediton, 34pts.

The Section would like to thank Barenbrug Seeds for their continued support and to East Devon Golf Club for allowing us the use of their excellent facilities. The golf course was in superb condition and is an absolute credit to Paul Newcome and his staff. Our afternoon educational talk was presented by Jeff Mills,

Course Manager at Taunton and Pickeridge Golf Club.

Our Regional Administrator Paula Humphries is retiring in May this year. Paula has recently undergone an operation and the Section sends their best wishes to her and her husband, Mike. I have just returned from the BTME show in Harrogate. The show seems to go from strength to strength and a big thank you to Neil Thomas and all the staff at BIGGA HOUSE for all their hard work.

I would also like to wish our new Chairman, George Brown all the best for his forthcoming year in office, as I know he will be a great ambassador to our Association.

Our next meeting for the Supertrurf and Aventis Trophies will be held on Tuesday, March 25 at Yelverton Golf Club. Hopefully Cohn Webber will have regained his memory and I look forward to seeing him at Yelverton with his clothes on!

I would like to thank all our members for their support and look forward to seeing you at our meetings in the future.

Steve Evans

## South Wales

Firstly I would like to apologise for the lack of notes over the last five months, there seems to have been a breakdown in communication between me and HQ. Hopefully it's all been sorted out and we can look forward to some regular news from our Section in the future.

Let's start with the golf results from last year! Winner of the summer competition held at Dinas Powys Golf Club was Herbie Probert; Emyr Nicolls won the Autumn comp at Havardfordwest GC, and Adrian Panks won the winter comp at Pyle and Kenfig GC. The Rigby Taylor match play KO winners were Daryl Bray & Leigh Davis, from Morrision GC, who beat Jim Mckenzie in the final at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club.

A big thank you to all the clubs who allowed us use of their courses this year, and to the sponsors.

The AGM was again held at Pyle & Kenfig GC. Our outgoing President of 10 years, Colin Murphy, was presented with a wall clock as a sign of appreciation for all he has done for us over the last 30 or so years. We all hope he has a long and happy retirement. The new President is Ray Burrows, with Denis Archer as the Vice President. No major changes in the committee this year, although we would like to welcome Emyr Nicolls on board, (future Around the Green writer)?

A few notes for your diary, before the fixture cards are sent out, Thursday April 10th we will be at Royal Porthcawl GC for our section seminar, this will be sponsored by Symbio, details will be

sent to all members nearer the day. The Avoncrop sponsored evening lectures are under way, February 12, March 12 and April 9 are the dates for your diary. By the way the quiz night is on March 12, with the final talk in April.

Adrian Panks

### South West

I would like to start by sending our thoughts and best wishes to Paula Humphries, she was sadly missed at BTME. On the subject of BTME what a great event. It truly does get better and better, our thanks must go to Head Office for the new changes re: start times and seminar organisation It worked really well.

Your elected officers would like to know your opinions on package options and travel arrangements some suggestions are one smaller coach going up on the Sunday coming back Thursday morning so incorporating the education seminars and another travelling on Tuesday back on Friday?

The Patronage scheme has proved to be a great success with a total of nine companies signing up, our thanks to:- MJ Abbott, Irritech, BS Mowers, ALS, Bioseed, Symbio, Avoncrop Rigby Taylor and AMTEC. The scheme involves the aforementioned companies making a financial contribution, with this extra input it enables us to fund certain initiatives such as, sponsoring the winner with the lowest gross score for the summer tournament to go to the National Tournament. We will pay entry fee and travelling expenses. Non golfers do not fear there is something for you too, those attending the course walks and staying for lunch, names will be put into a hat and the winner will receive a greenkeeping educational book such as STRI Care of the Golf Course etc.

The Committee would also like to sponsor a greenkeeper with a trip to BTME all you have to do is send a letter to our Secretary Nobby Knight stating the reasons why you should be chosen.

Education, education, education (who said that?) Seriously though I need to know your requirements, e-mail me, ring me, please someone, anyone 01225 333928. Some ideas coming through are arranging our own trip to GCSAA next year in San Diego California, cheap flight, budget accommodation? A Frank Newbury seminar, and for the Autumn I am liaising with Toro, an Agronomist and a Ecologist for a one day seminary here a Bath Golf Club. How about exchange visits? Local golf courses with major tournaments perhaps go for the week prior to the tournament and see how the preparation is done perhaps more rewarding experience than just bunker raking at the Open.

We would be grateful of any feedback or suggestions on some of the items raised we are

here to serve you! Our telephone numbers are supplied on the fixture card. I do apologise to go on so much but we do need to be aware of what is happening In our section. So may it rain just as you finish top dressing, wind blow after you have sprayed and sun shine on Captain's day, dream on.

Email: [greenkeepers@bathgolfclub.fsworld.co.uk](mailto:greenkeepers@bathgolfclub.fsworld.co.uk)  
Guy Woods



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### Surrey

All members should have by now received this years events programme. Please make sure that you return the relevant forms to Ian Sellars as soon as possible or you will be left off the mailing list.

Surrey Section committee met on January 29 and one of the points discussed was raised at the AGM by Billy McMillan, regarding education. All Sections have access to money allocated by BIGGA for educational use so lets use it! Please give us the help we need to arrange seminars, visits etc. that you want to and will attend. If your course is undergoing an interesting change or improvement let the committee know so that a visit can be arranged and all members can benefit. All suggestions to Dan Lightfoot, at Gatton Manor Golf Club or [daniellightfoot180@hotmail.com](mailto:daniellightfoot180@hotmail.com).

The golf venues this year will attract as always a large turnout especially as there are some courses we have not played before. Please return your entry slips by the date required as late entries and no payment mean no play. Will any member with a trophy or cup please contact Ian Sellars.

Congratulation paragraph this month tells us that Tony Kyle is now head man at Surrey Downs Golf Club and that his wife Samantha gave birth to Caden Joshua on August 1 2002 and that Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Woodcote Park Golf Club became a father on December 2 2002 with the help of his partner, Paula, and their Daughter Georgia 7lb's 2oz's. Please note that Adie Locke's son is called Aiden and not Alden as reported in last month's magazine. Sorry Aiden.

Brian Willmott

### NORTHERN IRELAND

Good morning. It's 7.30am, Saturday January 18 and I've been awake since five (the usual sedative hasn't worked). I started thinking about greenkeeping (am I sad or what) and making a comparison with other professions... now I won't sleep for a week.

My newly acquired mental turmoil began over a pint and a yarn with your colleague and my friend, Mark Farrell, from City of Derry.

Now this morning I'm thinking if I was a heart surgeon or a dentist or a stock market whizkid or a candle stick maker I would, like you greenkeepers, have had years of education and training to learn my profession. Then I considered a blade of grass (flipping heck). It's a living thing, it grows, it reproduces, it gets sick and stressed, has good days and bad like me - if I don't feel 100% in the morning I still have to look good. A spoonful of Eno's helps but I certainly don't function at 100%. If I have a toothache etc at least I can tell someone which tooth hurts, or if I come out in spots I can dab some cream on.

God help you greenkeepers if you tell your boss that the grass might be alright tomorrow. Well you have to be a doctor, a nutritionist, a physio, a psychiatrist, a mechanic, a PR man, a chemist and an accountant. Well, as we say, "I take my hat off to you".

I'm now having a cup of coffee and a ciggie and when I've finished I'm not going to be a greenkeeper or a vet. I'm going to be a rocket scientist, much easier. Too late for another sedative now. Having said all that I know from my farming background how enormously satisfying it can be. I used to inject 300 units of liquid ammonia to grazing land as soon as I could get on to see through the growing season and my cows were as happy as the day is long. A bit like greenkeeping I don't think.

2pm. Well, I've just cut the lawn for the first time and got down quite low, about two inches, and my neighbours think I'm mad but say it looks well. The six inches of thatch makes it lovely to walk on. Your feet go well down and it's nice to see the scorched foot marks were someone went when the frost was there - "Know what I mean?"

Here is a quick tip to make you the best greenkeeper in the world. When you cut new holes use a bevelled (saucer shaped) board, when the new cup is in place jump up and down on the board then all putts will roll in and there'll be smiles all round.

Happy days., Graham Prosser

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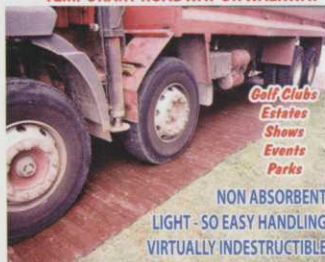
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# Recruitment

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Applications in writing by 24 March 2003 with full CV to:

The Manager, Elsham Golf Club,  
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Rob Holland, Birchwood Park Golf Centre, Birchwood Road, Dartford, Kent DA2 7HJ Tel: 01322 662038

Bob Thompson, Hoebridge Golf Centre, Old Woking Road, Woking, Surrey GU22 8JH. Tel: 01483 725755

Or, if you require more information about the positions please call the Centres direct

## GIRTON GOLF CLUB

### 1st ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

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- Appropriate qualifications to NVQ Level 2 or equivalent
- Holder of spraying certificates PA1, PA2 and PA6 would be an advantage
- Practical knowledge of Golf Course Equipment and Machinery
- Good Communication and Team Working Skills

Apply in writing with full CV.

The Secretary/Manager, Scarcroft Golf Club, Syke Lane, Scarcroft, Leeds, LS14 3BQ

## Feature listing from March 2001

**March 2001;** York GC; Greens Maintenance; Meland GC, Norway; Greens Mowers; BIGGA Essay Winner; Grass Science profile

**April 2001;** Lightning detection; Brockett Hall GC; CGSA report; Fairway Mowers; Irrigation; Sward renovation; BIGGA Essay winner; Turf Disease

**May 2001;** Foot and Mouth Disease Special Report; Maintenance Facility report; Bunker Sand; ATVs; RainBird Profile; Fineturf Genetics; BTME2002 countdown; Electric-powered machines

**June 2001;** Stoke Park Club profile; Stuart Cagle MG; Tractors; Leaf Spot Disease; Take All Patch; Construction

**July 2001;** Royal Lytham profile; Tees Mowers; Fertilisers; Green Grasses; John Deere profile; Sandy McDivot; College Listings

**August 2001;** Aeration Survey; Machrie GC profile; Rough Mowers; Saltex Preview; Dr Alan Gange - environmental research; Hayter Profile; Ponds; Open Championship review; Toro Student of the Year profile;

**September 2001;** Ryder Cup preview; Chafer Grubs; Drainage; BIGGA National Championship preview; Sandy McDivot; Machinery Maintenance; Soil Analysis; Wild Flowers

**October 2001;** Major Award for Walter Woods; Royal Portrush GC; Portstewart GC; Irrigation; Soil biodiversity; Leaf collection systems; Scotsturf preview Saltex review

**November 2001;** BIGGA National Championship review; Environment Competition winner; Spraying; Toro Awards Preview; Cutting regimes; Dyke GC

**December 2001;** Toro Award Winners; Southern Gables GC; BTME preview; Speciality equipment; Thatch removal

**January 2002;** Walton Heath profile; Greenkeeping in Denmark; Moving materials; A first for Andy Campbell; New products

**February 2002;** Harrogate 2002 Review; Drainage; Castlerock GC; Trees; Recycling; TurfTrax profile; Barn Owl special report

**March 2002;** Donnington Valley profile; Utility vehicles; Essay competition winner; Irrigation; Seeds; Sandy McDivot

**April 2002;** Heyrose GC profile; Bernhard's Scholarship; De-stress your greens; COSHH assessments; Rootzones and topdressing; Maintenance facilities; Essay competition

**May 2002;** BIGGA Report; Nematodes; Caldy GC profile; Multi-tasking machinery; Bunker Sand; Essay competition; Fijian GC profile; BIGGA Minimum qualification

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

**July 2002;** Open preview; Turf; Steve Isaccs; 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

**November 2002;** Toro Student of the Year; National Championship; Drainage; St Andrew's Bay; Autumn Problems

**December 2002;** BTME & ClubHouse Preview; R&A Golf Course committee; Dr Kate Entwistle; Pennard GC

**January 2003;** Beedles Lake Profile; Talking Heads - Chemical Application; Rebuilding Golf Greens; Constructive Advice

**February 2003;** BTME/ClubHouse Review; Royal Liverpool Profile; Irrigation; Nematodes



# Where have all the birds gone?



They didn't tell me when I took on the role of Chairman that I'd be quite this busy. We'd only just returned home from Harrogate and we were packing up again to head for the States and the GCSAA Conference and Show in Atlanta, Georgia.

But it was well worth the effort. It was a very successful week, particularly from BIGGA's perspective, as our stand was extremely busy with overseas members and prospective members while we spent a great deal of time fielding questions on BIGGA, and particularly the Master Greenkeeper programme which is very popular with American Superintendents.

There were a tremendous number of British greenkeepers in Atlanta this year. In addition to the BIGGA Scholarship Delegation of 10, and thank you to Bernhard for sponsoring the Delegation for the third time, there were many others there as guests of other companies, including Ransomes Jacobsen.

And it wasn't just as visitors that we made our presence felt. Eddie Adams, Head Greenkeeper of the Old Course, St Andrews, delivered a fine presentation on revetting bunkers.

I also spent a few hours in the company of Murray Long, Coombe Hill's Head Greenkeeper, and the winner of the Toro Student of the Year Competition in 2002. Murray visited Atlanta during a break in his studies at the University of Massachusetts which formed part of his prize. He was having an unforgettable time and is extremely grateful to both BIGGA and Toro for making it possible. It is a superb competition and the prize is well worth becoming a target to work towards. Look out for information on the 2003 Toro Student of the Year Competition and you too could be experiencing what Murray is currently experiencing.

One of the highlights of the week was the Banquet at which renowned golf course architect Pete Dye was presented with the Old Tom Morris Award. Seeing someone who is such an influential figure in the game of golf receiving the award makes it all the more special that our own Walter Woods received it last year.

One incident in the shuttle bus on the way to the hotel from Atlanta Airport really made me think. There were two Americans sitting just across from me who were strangers but who I took to be Superintendents. Once we'd settled down the first question that one asked the other was, "How much is your fungicide budget this year?" Now I know they experience different conditions to us and that their climate can be completely different but it really does sum up much of what Jim Arthur talks about and has written in Practical Greenkeeping.

It's probably not connected but in all the time we were in Atlanta, and it was over a week, I only saw two species of bird. A couple of old crows and some pigeons in the park and the Mall. If someone had said that to me before we went I would never have believed them. It was lovely to get home and hear all the birdsong.

As I write it is still February and the weather is very mixed. We are still cutting greens occasionally and are nearly finished the revetting of the bunkers on both the Ailsa and the Arran courses at Turnberry. It's the same with the aeration and turfing programmes and although the bunkers need topping up with sand it is too early as the March winds are still to come which would soon empty them again. Those winds will be very handy, though, when it comes to drying the course out and we have our fingers crossed for some early growth to enable the top dressing to smooth out the winter scars and even the putting surfaces.

By now, of course, all your course furniture should be ready - tee markers and flag pins painted or replaced while your irrigation systems should have been overhauled and ready to spring into action. Don't leave it until it's needed before finding out that there's a problem. Planning ahead is the secret.

Good luck with your final preparations for the new season and I'll keep you up to date with the work we are doing at Turnberry.

George Brown  
Chairman