

YOUR LETTERS ARE NEEDED!

Send to: Scott MacCallum, Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF, or email them to: scott@bigga.co.uk

A Great Help

I thought that I would write to thank BIGGA for all of the help, support and guidance that the Association afforded me over the past year. In a recent editorial in Greenkeeper International there appeared to be some debate over the fact that BIGGA was not a union and if this were to be the case then greenkeepers could be better looked after. Scott refuted this.

I would like to express the fact that everyone at BIGGA did their upper most to support me during my redundancy situation. From the moment that I contacted BIGGA to ask for representation at a series of consultation meetings the support was total. Everyone at BIGGA helped me to get through a difficult time and successfully back into work, as a greenkeeper. During the consultation process BIGGA helped to form rational arguments to support my claim that the redundancy could be avoided. During the meetings Rachael Palmer sat at my side, after propping me and correlating evidence to support me. Rachael intervened where necessary and worked towards supporting me in formulating my arguments. Rachael taped all of my meetings with the Golf Club and witnessed my then Club Secretary described the job of Head Greenkeeper as "hardly rocket science". At this point Rachael sternly defended both greenkeepers and myself. Her professional attitude, assistance and diligence were invaluable throughout this process.

During the period of my unemployment numerous things were done to assist me in trying to secure a job. Rachael was extremely useful in correlating all information and sent it to General Legal Protection. This of course is the company that deals with our legal issues.

Through this company a solicitor from Langleys was appointed to represent me, after I had been made redundant. Through him a settlement was made between myself and my previous employer concerning the redundancy issue. This I could not have afforded to do on my own, and to that end I was not required to pay anything, as BIGGA were picking up the legal expenses.

Rachael also arranged for forms to be sent off allowing me to claim back part of the costs for my subscriptions to BIGGA from the Inland Revenue.

In Ken Richardson's capacity as Education and Training Manager he allowed me to apply for the higher education training fund that is sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen. This request was duly granted, and allowed me to complete the final year of my HND Turf Science and Golf Course Management course.

I have now completed this successfully and I was awarded the Ernest Jones Award from Myerscough. This award goes to the top HND student for a turf course.

The award of the scholarship came at a time when I could not have afforded to pay for the final year myself. Allied to this the college selected me as their representative for the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year and I am currently in the final.

These are just some of the reasons why I believe that being a member of BIGGA gives excellent value for money. I believe that the organisation does look after its members extremely well. As my case demonstrates. I do not believe changing the nature of the organisation will lead to greater support, as it is already high on their list of priorities.

For years I never utilised my membership to its full, simply because I never had reason to use it the way I have over the past year. It gave me great comfort to know that during my tempestuous time that the whole of BIGGA was standing shoulder to shoulder with me. Reason enough, I believe, to be a member.

It is reassuring that at the point of need there is someone there able to assist and represent us, as individuals and the whole of the greenkeeping industry.

On a final note please accept my sincere thanks for selecting me to be the National Finalist for the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year. It was a most unexpected surprise to be chosen, bearing in mind the calibre of the other contestants, some of whom I met after my interview at the Hilton Hotel.

Keith Scruton, Head Greenkeeper, Colne Golf Club

The late David Halford

It is with great regret to hear the news of David Halford passing away from this life recently. David always had a cheery smile whenever I bumped into him at the various trade shows and had a very dry sense of humour which he used to great effect in his own inimitable way. I was fortunate to have David teach me machinery at Myerscough college during 1978-81. He had a good knack of getting the main points across but not all the students found his tact and humour to their liking. He had exceptional knowledge in his chosen field. There is no doubt he was a unique character. I was one of the many students who passed through his own machinery renovation club where we would strip down these rusty old relics and with lots of love and hard work, turn them round into new looking, pristine machines. It has been one of a personal joy to track down, some years ago, the collection of restored machines that now sit in a barn at the National Trust property at Trevice House, near Newquay in Cornwall. This, among other achievements, will remain testament to David's success in this business. Hopefully all the data he collated on the machines may appear in a book of some form so that as time passes by there is a good record of an important part of the early heritage of greenkeeping. He will be greatly missed by all those whose lives he touched.

David Haskell-Craig MG, Course Manager, Maidenhead Golf Club

Many Thanks

I would like to pass on my thanks to the many greenkeepers who made up the Support Team for this year's Open Championship at Royal St George's.

Not only did the Support Team perform their duties professionally during the days of the Championship, they also aided me in preparing the bunkers before play got underway in the morning.

My staff and I enjoyed meeting some old faces and some new faces in the BIGGA marquee and we look forward to the next time we meet.

Once again many thanks to the Support Team for their invaluable time in helping the green staff at Royal St Georges.

Neil Metcalf,
Head Greenkeeper,
Royal St George's Golf Club



SCOTTISH REGION
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440

Ayrshire

As in previous years the Scottish Region once again offers a subsidised package deal for BTME 2004.

The package includes coach to Harrogate, entry to all Seminars and Exhibition and three nights bed and breakfast in ensuite twin rooms in the Moat House Hotel, Harrogate on January 20, 21 and 22, 2004. Package costs: £163. Partners are welcome at a cost of £138 for travel and accommodation.

Banquet tickets cost an extra £35 per person.

For booking form contact Peter J. Boyd, Scottish Regional Administrator, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow G77 6TA. Contact Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440 email: biggascotland@aol.com
Peter Boyd

North

New members to report are Graham Farquharson, Huntly GC; Darren Hexley, Muir of Ord GC; Muir Ross, Ballindalloch GC; Mark Tudhope, Boat of Garten GC; Fraser Brown and Marc Macgregor Afford GC. Welcome to the Section lads.

Any greenkeeper interested in courses run by BIGGA, should contact Dougal Duguid on 01224 740320. Around eight to ten per course are required to make it worthwhile to run. Health and safety and chainsaw courses are examples of the subsidised courses available.

The Open went very well for the BIGGA team involved, and thanks go to John Pemberton and the rest of the team for the organisation of the whole thing. Also congratulations to Neil Metcalfe and his team for the condition of the course and the smooth running of the of the intense maintenance required once the tournament starts. You will notice that the extreme amount of walking required leaves all the greenkeepers involved looking like athletes, as the photographs in the magazine suggest.

Also congratulations to Gary Gruber who begins his new job as Head Greenkeeper at Skibo Castle GC. Gary is formerly of Dornoch GC.

Not much else to report this month so hopefully all your courses are looking good and the summerr was not too unkind.

The Section outing was held at Hazelhead GC, on September 9, and we had a turnout of 70 which meant the the day was a success. Our thanks go to Stuart McBain, the Courses Manager, at the complex for turning the course out so well and to his staff for all their hard work. It is a course I had not played before and I thought it was a lovely course with some great holes and is well worth another visit. Thanks also to the bar staff and in particular the lady members of the golf club who spent their day cooking our meals and making sure everthing went smoothly. Also to the committee for all their hard work in making the event run smoothly. The prize winners were as follows:

Scratch

1. G. Tough Letham, Grange GC, 70; 2. G. Mitchell, Newmachar GC, 74.

Class 1. 1. J. Urquhart, Tain GC; 2. B. Wood Westhill GC; 3. C. Mackay, Forres GC.
Class 2. 1. W. Craig, Kirriemuir GC; 2. J. Swanson GC; 3. S. Robertson, Craigie Hill GC.
Class 3. 1. D. Duggan, Fortrose GC; 2. K. Anderson; 3. B. Strachan, Auchmillill GC.
Apprentice Trophy. 1. B. Brooks, Newmachar GC; 2. A. Nixon, Fortrose GC.
Veteran. 1. A. Grant, Retired; 2. J. Geddes, Ellon GC.

Trade. M. Dennis, Rigby Taylor. Guest. T. Sullivan, Craigie Hill GC. Committee Trophy. S. Sullivan, Craigie Hill GC. Best nett Mclean Trophy. W. Craig, Kirriemuir GC. 36 hole Best veteran. A. Grant Retired. Longest Drive. Class 1. K. Thomson, Moray GC. Class 2. A. Shade, Spey Bay GC. Class 3. G. Asher, Kemnay GC. Nearest the Pin. G. Mellis, Muir of Ord GC.

Sweep. 1. W. Craig, Kirriemuir GC; 2. J. Urquhart, Tain GC; 3. D. Duggan Fortrose GC; 4. B. Brooks, Newmachar GC. BIGGA Blazer. K. Anderson, Newmachar GC.
200 Club Draw. £30, C. Forbes, Peterculter GC; £30, A. Mackintosh, Peterculter GC; £30, J. Geddes, Ellon GC; £100, A. Williamson.

Congratulations to all the prize winners and the first time winners, in particular, A. Grant, formerly Fraserburgh GC, who has never won anything at anything. Nice to see that.

The Section AGM will be held at Peterhead GC on October 16. It will take the form of a normal outing this year and the AGM will take place straight after the golf is over. Hope to see you there.

Congratulations to Jimmy McCormack, of Kirriemuir GC, whose trek up Mount Killamanjaro will take place in January next year. Jim has raised a lot of money already in sponsorship but there is still plenty of time to raise more, any member willing to sponsor Jim can do so by sending a cheque made out to the Anthony Nolan Fund to Jim at Kirriemuir G.C.

If anybody has anything they would like put in the magazine then please phone me on 01997 420155 and I will put it in the next report.

Iain Gunn



East

Welcome to this month's column, October already can anyone tell me where the year has gone. The last thing I knew it was April and now it is the autumn. Ok, on with the news from the section. The Summer Tournament at the Glen GC in July was cancelled due to lack of numbers as has been the norm for the last few years. The Committee has therefore decided that there will be no future Summer Tournament which is a sensible move as people are too busy in the summer and do not have time to attend outings as we are all very busy with our clubs and competitions. The annual Dinner Dance will be held on Saturday, December 6, at the Kilsplindie House Hotel, Aberlady with tickets now available. So let's see Members and your Guests come along for a very enjoyable evening. All information, tickets, room availability, prices etc from our Secretary Steve Dixon on 0131 6603965 (home), 0131 443 0235 (work) so please call Steve as soon as possible as rooms are on a first come first served basis so we hope for a big turnout at the highlight of our Section year. The Section Invitational Tournament will be held on Wednesday 8 October at Eyemouth Golf Club. The date of this Tournament was changed due to it being too close to the Autumn Outing at Cardrona on September 11, so the Committee decided to rearrange this fixture to the later date. Results for both the Autumn Tournament and the Invitational Tournament will be in the next month's or month after's Section news. The Committee are just putting together some winter lectures on various subjects. These include Machinery Maintenance, Coshh, Fepa, Risk Assessments, and Health and Safety. Details etc of all the above will be with you all very soon. Myself and Steve Dixon will be on the BIGGA stand at the Scotsturf Exhibition at Ingilston on November 5 & 6 so we hope to see you on the stand on one of the days. Well that's it all till next month when we will have results from the Cardrona Tournament and possibly The Invitational as well. If anyone has

any info of people on the move, births, marriages etc or anything of interest please let me know so I can put it into this column in the coming months.

So don't forget, the usual number's on the back of your fixture card and I would like to hear from you about anything. So that's it all till next time .

Chris Yeaman



West of Scotland

Welcome to this month's Section news.

Beginning this month with an apology from myself to John Scott senior formerly of Nairn Brown Machinery.

Back at the Spring Outing in May at Hilton Park GC, John was presented with a gift from the Section for all his hard work and support over the many years to the Section. Unfortunately your letter John, thanking members in the Section past and present for the warm welcome and gift received at the Spring Outing, was never presented to me to express your thanks via our Section news. It has only come to light recently that your letter was sent to my club and unfortunately it has been misplaced. Again apologies John on not conveying your letter of thanks. Best wishes and health on your retirement and I hope this makes up for the delay!

On August 18, The Norrie Whytock Trophy took place at Auchterarder GC. A small team volunteered to enter and were as follows: Fraser Ross, Renfrew Golf Club; Colin Black, Glasgow Golf Club; myself, Cathkin Braes Golf Club, and Brian 'Another booby prize' Bolland. Yes, yet again another booby prize for your mantelpiece Brian! Sorry Brian, had to mention. Unfortunately our Section finished in last place from all of the Sections throughout Scotland. Congratulations go to the North Section who came out on top on the day. Very big thank yous to Archie Dunn and crew for presenting an excellent conditioned course for this event; Peter Boyd for his excellent organisation in yet another successful event and, last but by no means least, David Drummond, of Bayer Products, on sponsoring the day and supplying and presenting the prizes. The committee will be on the look out for some new talent to do better

next year!

After the success of last year's AGM at Nairn Brown's Facilities, this year the format will be much similar held this year at Haggs Castle Golf Club on October 21 in conjunction with Hamilton Bro's demonstrations of Kubota, Toro and Charterhouse Equipment which will be on show from 10.30am – 12.30pm. A buffet lunch will be provided from approximately 1pm and following lunch Tom Dunlop, of Kubota UK Ltd; George McDonald, of Lely UK, and Richard Heywood, of Charterhouse Machinery will do small presentations on their specialised products. Our AGM will follow this at approx 2.30pm. Do try and come along and express any views, concerns, ideas you may have in the future development of our Section.

This year's annual dinner at the Formidable Victorias Night Club will take place on November 28. Tickets are already on sale and can be obtained from Gavin Jarvis, Secretary, or Fraser Ross, from Renfrew GC. Tickets are going fast so don't be disappointed. Please try and get any ordered tickets paid as soon as possible as this will greatly aid administration for what is the highlight evening of the year!

Next month. Results of Autumn Outing and Scotsturf Exhibition. Any news for the article contact 07774 420427.

Douglas McIntosh

Central

We're back! I'll bet you all thought that you were safe and that you wouldn't have to read any more of my drivel, sorry. Section news, well tough I have decided to come out of summer recess and bring you up to date with everything that is happening in the Section. Seriously though, no one ever sends any news items which they could share with other members (every Section appears to have this problem). It's your magazine. Use it!

Congratulations go to Section members David Leith and Paul Conway who were both successful in the Scottish Tournament at Turnberry also to Glen Campbell and Kenny Stirling for their achievements in National Tournaments. Congratulations also go to Michael Love on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Grangemouth Golf Course. I don't know anything about Michael at the moment but I do know that he is coming to the Autumn Tournament so we will have the opportunity to meet him then.

By the time you are reading this, the Autumn Tournament at Ailoo Golf Club will have taken place so I will give you a full report on the winners in next month's magazine.

The AGM will take place on the 30th of this month at Gleneagles and everyone should have received notice of it by now. If you are attending for what is guaranteed to be an excellent day, please return your form for catering purposes.

As I mentioned in the first paragraph, no member contributes to Section news so if anyone is dissatisfied with the way the section is being run this meeting is your chance to come along and have your say on what you think should be happening within your Section. Who knows, you may even be elected onto the committee then you can really change the world!

The date of the proposed lecture/workshop has not been finalised as of yet, but as soon as it is you will be notified.

Winners of Club 2000 prizes so far this year are M. Baxter, M. Graham, T. Adamson, P. Boyd, D. Leith, J. Meiklem, B. Rook, D. Gardner, R. Barron, S. Pearson, J. Bone, A. Dunn, G. Lorimer and A. Crawford. No doubt you have all received your allocation of tickets for next year's draw and are rushing to send your cheques before I send you your personal reminder (February magazine!). As I have said many times before this is the Section's only fund raising event, so please give it your support. If not, please return your unsold tickets as other members may manage to buy/sell them. You may not believe this but a number of members do purchase more than their own allocation of tickets in an effort to support the section.

John Crawford



North West

The Section news this month is mostly about what did not happen, with a little of what did happen. Firstly, the Regional final to be played at Middlesbrough Golf Club on Wednesday, August 13, had to be cancelled owing to lack of support. Each of the Sections in the Northern Region had a team of six players who had qualified at their Spring Tournaments. The names of all the qualifiers had been submitted to me, and starting times and all relevant information was sent to each secretary to be posted to all qualifiers. As time drew on towards August 13 Secretaries started to inform me that they could not find a team, although each Section had six qualifiers, and the end result was that the only two Sections who had a team were the North West and the Cleveland Sections. It was impractical for the competition to continue so unfortunately it was cancelled.

A lot of work went into arranging this match by both myself and the Northern Region Chairman, Ian Holoran, who had booked the course, purchased BIGGA coasters for all the players and arranged meals for 50. I had purchased medals and had arranged for a sponsor for the day. This is not good enough, when members say they will support something they should go through with it. I have come to the conclusion that the Regional match which I started when I was Chairman has run its course and, regrettably, I have decided not to continue to arrange it anymore due to lack of support.

Also on August 13 the "Roses" match should have been played at Cleckheaton Golf Club, Northern Section area, and I had left arrangements for this in the capable hands of North West Chairman, Mike Davie. Mike did his best to get together a team of 12 and almost did it. Although he had ten by the Friday before, by Monday seven had cancelled leaving him without a team. I understand that there are a lot of pressures on greenkeepers these days getting time off, but if you are unsure of being able to support something let the organiser know in plenty of time in order to allow further arrangements to be made. Now that I have got that lot off my chest I will continue with some good news.

On Wednesday, September 3, the Whitelaw Bowl was played for at Penrith Golf Club and what a great day we had. The weather was great with sunshine all day long and the course as usual was in lovely condition with credit to David Forsythe and his staff, including, I am sure, Marshall Monkhouse, who actually won a prize this time.

There were prizes for the best four in each division and the coveted Whitelaw Bowl was won by Stephen Campbell, Course Manager at Appleby Golf Club. Many thanks go to Penrith Golf Club for allowing us courtesy of the course; the greens staff for that little extra effort; the caterers for a magnificent meal and Rigby Taylors for sponsoring the day. The next event will be the President's Cup and AGM at Wilmslow Golf Club on Thursday, December 4. Applications to Bill Merritt, The Lodge, Beacon Park G.C. Beacon Lane, Dalton, Wigan, WN8 7RU including a cheque for £20 payable to BIGGA N/West Section.

That's it for now but if you have any comments please give me a ring on 01517 245412 or 07761 583387.

Bert Cross



North Wales

Welcome to October in the greenkeeping calander, only so many weeks now before Christmas and the nights are drawing in. Have you booked your hotel accommodation for Harrogate yet? If not I think it may be all booked up by the end of this month so get on the phone or www.reservationshighway.com The BTME show just gets bigger and better each year and there is so much to see now, it can take you two full days just to get round it. The Section may once again be running a coach and this will be discussed at our next committee meeting in November so anyone interested please give us a call to let us know if you would like to go.

The Irish Turf Show is on next month November 13 & 14 in the Royal Dublin Showground (RDS) a Bi-annual show and always a good trip as you can catch a cheap return flight from Liverpool on Ryan Air or jump on the sea cat from Holyhead and get accommodation at a very reasonable rate in the city centre where I believe there are one or two pubs you can get a pint of Guinness. Also the 'Dart' train takes you past (RDS) into the city.

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One of our members has been put up for a bravery award for saving a motorist when a car passing his golf club hit a tree and rolled over. Peter Sproston of Sutton Hall heard the noise from his office and ran 150yards to the road to pull the man out of his car. He was ok, but Peter nearly had a heart attack as that was the furthest he had ran in the last 10 years! The lads say Peter has gained a nickname as 'Clubhouse Pete' but I think this is a bit of jealousy as one day they may become Course Managers and have all the paper work and input to the club as well as the course that this job now demands. The Local Fire Brigade praised his heroics and put him in for the award. Well done, Pete!

Our Autumn Tournament was played on the 1st and the results will be in next month's issue. This was our AGM brought forward and your new committee will be announced along with details of our Christmas Tournament to be held at Abergele GC.

If any of you would like to get together for a Darts, Pool or Snooker evening during the winter months please give the committee a call and we will get one arranged.

Pat MacAteer, of Nefyn GC, had a trip in September to see the John Deere factory in Chicago, USA. I think he was trying to get one over on Bronco, from Porthmadog, who went to Spain last year with Toro. If any of the machinery people would like to take me on a trip, I am thinking of replacing my electric flymo next year?

Any news or views give us a call. Home: 01925 263394
Fax: 01925 269622 Mobile: 07778 162162 e-mail:
acorn@supanet.com

Mesen Cymru
Andrew Acorn



Northern

The next tournament is our Autumn meeting and AGM sponsored by Bob Wild Grass Machinery. This is at West Bowling golf club on the 16th October. All bookings for this event are to be forwarded to Steve Heaton. His home address is 31 Hillcrest Avenue, Silsden, West Yorks, BD20 9NH Tel-01535 655764. The tee off time for this event is from 9.30am. The AGM will be held between the golf and the evening meal at around 4pm. It would be very encouraging if we could have a big turnout for the AGM as a couple of the committee members are wishing to step down in the next year. Is it not about time you did your stint for your Section committee?

The dog racing night at Pontefract is filling up very well. This is taking place on Friday, October 24. All details can be obtained from any committee member.

I was hoping to be telling you all of our Section's victory over the North West Section in the Roses tournament, but unfortunately they chickened out at the last minute. We were left with the lovely Cleckheaton golf course and food at the 11th hour but after many frantic phone calls and much help from Graham Greenwood we managed to cobble another team together. A great time was had by all on the day with the victors being the cobbled together team by five to one.

A special mention must go to Mike who came from Longridge Golf Club, as no one in his Section had told him they were not turning up (shame on you!). I hope we all made you welcome and you enjoyed the day. Thanks to Cleckheaton GC for hosting the day and to Jeremy and his team for a great course. We are indebted to Pattersons and Graham for their sponsorship and help on the day.

After watching some of the Walker Cup on TV last weekend I cannot write these notes without heaping praise on Philip Baldock and his greens team who produced a fine golf course and a great test for both teams. Ganton must be very proud of you all.

New members to our Section and Association are Keith Ratcliffe, from Cookridge Hall; Jamie Fletcher, from Howley Hall, and Simon Rothwell, from Bradley Hall. May I extend a warm welcome to you all and hope you use your Association to the full.

That's all for now, I will tell you of the goings on at Invitation Day at Wetherby next month.

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Dthackray@aol.com

Dave Thackray





MIDLAND REGION
Peter Larter
Tel: 01476 550115

East of England

The annual match played between the East of England Section and the East Midland Section took place at Beedles Lakes Golf Club.

The score was 4-1 to the visiting team East of England. This is the second year in a row our Section has won the Barenbrug Shield and we hope to defend it back on our home soil next year.

We would like to thank Jane Leyland, of Barenbrug, for donating some great prizes.

While we are on the thank you trail, thanks must go to Ian Needham, Head Greenkeeper, for the excellent presentation of the course and also to Les Emery for the hospitality given by all at Beedles Lakes Golf Club.

East of England players results: -Fred Cobb and Gary Cooper, lost; Ian Batty and Alan Buckley, won; Les Howkins and Stuart Clayton, won; Adi Kitchinson and Russ Moody, won and Graeme Macdonald and Phil Gates, won.

Thanks to our side for making the long trip a success day and thanks also for all who stood in on short notice.

Longest Drive went to Graeme Macdonald and Nearest the Pin went to Antony Bindley.

Graeme A. Macdonald



Mid Anglia

The Summer Tournament was held at Mentmore Golf and Country Club in August. We played the Rothschild Course and it was superbly presented by Chris Brook and his team. A big thank you to Boughton Loam for sponsoring the day and also to the other trade members for their support.

The results of the day were as follows: 1. Nigel Phelan, 40 pts; 2. Kevin Armstrong 36 pts (on countback); 3. Steve Mason, 36 pts. Best trade member. Mark Day, 37 pts. Longest Drive. Chris Slimm. Nearest the Pin. Clive Parnell (Trade). Clive donated his prize to Lee Rance as he also had 36 pts.

Everyone on the committee would like to see more of you attending the golf days, this is a good way of meeting new people in the same line of work while playing new courses.

Hope to see you at Berkhamsted Golf Club on Friday, October 10 which will also include the AGM after the presentation of trophies.

Steve Mason



Midland

I've heard some great unwitting statements in my time and one was presented very recently via Mr R. Writtle, of Penn, during a conversation regarding the now passed fishing event. RW: "I don't like fishing". SM: "Why?" RW: "I had a bad experience with a 20lb carp". SM: "What?" (I managed to contain myself). RW: "When seven, my father caught a large carp and after landing such promptly saw fit for me to meet his prize at pectoral fin level, within the net!. It was almost as big as I". SM: "What, you were violated by a carp?". (I was beside myself, and most grateful that I did not have a kidney infection). The learned doctrine, "engage brain before mouth" comes to mind.

The Autumn Tournament was held at Halesowen GC on September 8. Our thanks to Tim Dorrell and his fine team for preparing the course so finely. A most enjoyable day was had by all. Well done chaps. The results of the day were; Best Gross. M.Cutler. Nett Results: 1. M. Cutler; 2. E. Stant; 3. M. Hughes; 4. V. Gilroy; 5. T. Livingstone. Our thanks to Amenity Technology for sponsoring the fine prize table. Nearest the Pin: D. Dorrell. Longest Drive: L. Swann, both of which being kindly sponsored by W.B.B. Products. Trade winner: T. Cheese.

I would like to welcome three new members to our Section. D. Healy, L. Murfin and N.Thornley. Should any require an entry form for the Christmas Tournament at Enville GC on December 9, or any other information on the events the Section runs, please have no hesitation in contacting me on: 07816 410552. Looking forward to your support and input.

Don't forget folks, our AGM is also to be held at Enville GC at 4.30pm on December 9. All are obviously welcome, and indeed without input your wishes

cannot be addressed. Those not participating in the golf, but wishing to join the meal party please inform R.Thomas on:07775 581615. Please attend. Your counsel is of great importance.

Now for some excellent free educational opportunities. Kim Blake, Course Manager at Fulford Heath GC, is a part-time GTC Liaison Officer for Worcestershire and Gloucestershire. Anyone requiring information on A1 Assessor training, L12 Coaching qualifications or for further information on the G.T.C., or any other Trainer courses please contact Kim on: 01527 524217 or: 07791 056259. Such is being funded by the R&A and the ESF, European Social Fund.

The Scotts Doubles has now reached its finals. The victorious couple of pairs being E. Stant & P. Woodham and S. Mucklow & V. Gilroy. The final was played at Wentworth on September 18. It's all right for some, and yes I am somewhat jealous. Hope you had a great day gents.

Now for something I love reporting. Karen Lee, mother of Richard, Andrew and Nicholas, and also the long suffering wife of Vince, was 40 on September 20th. You must be an angel putting up with Vince for 15 years of marriage. Vince would not change you for the world. The Section wishes you many happy returns, Karen.

Until next month. Take care. Don't forget "here comes Leafville"!

Cheers.

Sean McDade



East Midlands

The 2003 BIGGA Golf Management Trophy, (sponsored by Scotts) was held at the delightful venue of Kedleston Park, courtesy of Kedleston being the reigning champions. The day was a very hot dry summer's day with a big winning score forecast to win the competition. The day started at 1pm with 19 teams in a shotgun start Am-Am format, with the eventual winners being Kirby Muxloe GC who amassed 84 points, closely followed in second place by Wollaton Park GC with 83 points, and with 81 points in third place was Drayton Park GC.

The winning team consisted of David Mayfield, Captain; David Ritchie, Greens Chairman & Vice Captain; Brian Woodcock, Club Manager, and myself as Head Greenkeeper. On behalf of BIGGA I would like to thank Kedleston Park for hosting the event; the caterer for a superb meal and Dave Leatherland and his staff for providing us all with a great golf course. Also I would like to thank Peter Larter for all his hard work in helping run the tournament and to our very generous sponsors Scotts.

On August 13 at Beedles Lake GC we hosted the annual East Midlands v East of England Section Golf match. Once again the course was set up in pristine condition by Ian Needham and his staff, which was to the liking of The East of England Section as they won by 4 games to 1. Our only winners were the Beedles Lake boys, Les Emery and Ian Needham.

The rest of the team were as follows. Steve Goode, Greg Skinner, Antony Bindley, Adi Porter, David James, Mark Bindley, Jamie Bedford and Kevin Kinzer.

There will be a more detailed report on the Autumn Tournament in next months edition, but so far we have only 18 members.

Antony Bindley



BB&O

Has the rain started yet? As I write this in late August I manage a golf course turning to dust. We do not possess fairway watering so I have finally seen just how dry Maidenhead Golf Club can get and the word "dustbowl" springs to mind. Having played a few other courses I see everyone is fighting the good fight. Knowing the vagaries of the English weather you could by now be getting the canoes out for course check.

Our Invitational Competition held at the Buckinghamshire Golf Club had a good turn out of 44 players. We all had an excellent day, which will be remembered for many years because it was like playing golf in high-season Delhi. The mobile drinks machine could not come round quick enough and with highs of 35C in the shade we certainly drank vast quantities. Having said that, everyone enjoyed the day with the course in great condition. Well done to Steve Hook and his team who were up against the odds in such weather. The day was sponsored by Headland with Johnny Beck, from Sheriffs Amenity, erecting a halfway house to serve the punters a barbie burger and drinks. Thanks to Ian Richardson for raising the prizes on behalf of Headlands and offering a friendly hand at the halfway house. I invited Scott MacCallum down from BIGGA who helped with sorting out the scores as people

returned from the field so many thanks to Scott for all his help. Results as follows: 1. Jason Brooks and Len Hancock, Burnham Beeches GC, 40pts; 2. Steve Gardner and Stan Chandler, Flackwell Heath GC, 39pts; 3. Brian Payne and Charles Wigginton, Burnham Beeches GC, 39pts; 4. Mitch Stewart and Andrew Chaundy, Henley GC, 37pts. Trade prize, Colin White and Barry McCloskey, Avoncrop Amenity, 38pts. Longest drive, Steve Gardner. Nearest the pin, Charles Wigginton.

Our next competition will soon be upon us with this years Turkey Trot being held at Frilford Heath GC on Thursday, November 20, at a revised starting time of 9am. Please note this is different from the fixture card. This event is played with teams of three with the best two scores counting. Please could you send your entries to me at the new address of: 7, Erskine Close, Pamber Heath, Tadley, RG26 3EP. You can phone me on 07778 765021. The cost is £25 and includes coffee to start with a seated meal to round off the day and give out the prizes. Avoncrop Amenity will sponsor this event. You may remember this Section sponsored John Bevan in a Charity Golf Day, which raises money for the Macmillan Nurses Fund. The day was a great success with over £6000 raised so well done to John and numerous other greenkeepers who entered this competition. The cheque was presented at Weston Park GC on August Bank Holiday.

Please come along to the AGM meeting at the Springs Golf Club on October 22 at 6.30pm. We need more volunteers to form a new committee who will continue to take the Section forward. Come and meet some of the new faces already in place since the last article. John Scoones, Course Manager at Caversham Heath GC, will be the new Secretary for the BB&O Section. Mitch Stewart, Deputy Course Manager at Henley GC will be Treasurer and Ray Clarke, from Harleyford GC, will be the new Chairperson. If you have even the slightest inkling to do some good through committee then let's have you come forward at the AGM or simply ring me for a chat before then.

The present committee has now booked all four events for next year's golf fixtures that will be released at the AGM. Just a quick 'Well Done' to the epistle printed by my good colleague Guy Woods for homing in on the general apathy that exists with our members to join in on social or golfing events. Hopefully by letting off steam, Guy, you may just prick a few consciences so that all your hard work organising your events do not go to waste.

David Haskell-Craig



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Devon and Cornwall

Not much happening this month although I was fortunate enough to qualify for the John Deere World Team Championship at the Belfry. A big thank you to John Deere for putting on such a fantastic event, to Bevan Tattersall and his greenstaff at The Belfry. The course was in immaculate condition despite the horrendous weather and also thanks to Mike Blair, of Rochford Garden Machinery.

Our first Autumn meeting will be held at Truro Golf Club in Cornwall on Wednesday, October 22, and hopefully, you should already have had your entry forms. Could I ask you all to please send your entries back to me by the closing date - October 15 - as this makes it much easier for me to organise everything before hand. I look forward to seeing you all at Truro.

Steve Evans



South West

I am smiling as I write this report having just completed our course maintenance week, verti-draining, coring, topdressing etc. One bonus of the dry weather - at least it's great for working in dressing. "Hark. What is that I can hear?" "Just when they were good you have ruined them". Bless them. Don't you just love comments like that along with some old favourites "Green side up", "Can you do my lawn next" and "Why aren't all the holes filled?"

At this point the shovel can seem like a glorious weapon but you smile, nod and wave with a jolly non committal laugh. All part of the greenkeepers burden. Anyway, I digress. Congratulations to Sam Kennedy, from Bowood, you have won the highly coveted prize of a free trip to BTME. Sam's letter was the only one we

received in response to our appeals as to why you think you should win the trip. It also happened to be a great letter. Thanks Sam and enjoy your free trip.

We wish Paul Jenkins every success in his new venture and congratulations to his successor Matt Coles, the new Course Manager at Lillybrook Golf Club.

It would be great if you could give me some feedback on some courses I am hoping to run in conjunction with Training Express. They are: Health and Safety Competent Person, Risk Assessments and COSHH Assessments and I need roughly six to ten people to make it worth while. There are still four places for the Frank Newbury Presentation to Committee two day seminar here at Bath GC, December 3 & 4. Cost subsidised by BIGGA, £70.50 for two days including lunch. Come on is that good value or what?

As a closing note I would just like to congratulate the Course Manager at Ganton for the presentation of his course for the Walker Cup. It was so good to see another traditional course used to our advantage. What a great win by our lads. This is where the future of our game lies to coin a phrase 'back to basics'.

Contact 01225 483486, 078123 80936

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P.S. If you're reading this Graham Prosser of the Northern Ireland section, we break at 10.00 am at Bath Golf Club and we would look forward to seeing you for a cup of tea and a chat!

Guy Woods



South Coast

It's been a fairly quiet month again with not too much to report on. Moors Valley again hosted the Region's Scott's Management Trophy. Ian, Shane and their team prepared the course magnificently for the field and the scoring reflected just how good the course was. As always many thanks to Moors Valley for their superb hospitality and particularly to Desmond Meharg for all his help in ensuring the day ran so smoothly. The Greenkeeping team, ably led by Ian and Shane, must be congratulated for all their hard work. Moors Valley gets better and better every year and has matured into a wonderful course. To Scotts, a huge vote of thanks for their continued support.

The day was rounded off with a presentation to Paula Humphries from our Section as she has now officially retired. Paula has done a great deal for the South West and our presentation was a small vote of thanks for all her hard work and effort.

On a recent trip to the West Country I was fortunate to have lunch with Jim Arthur and Gordon Child. Although Jim is not in the best of health he is as sharp as ever and had much to say about the industry at the moment. The revised edition of Practical Greenkeeping is now available and has 180 extra pages. It really is a must read and is an excellent reference book for students. The book has been written by renowned specialists and covers every aspect of golf course management. Copies are available from the STRI, BIGGA HOUSE or from Jim himself. If you wish to buy a copy you can always contact me.

It was good to see Gordon Child in excellent health after his recent illness and he is as busy as ever within the industry. Next month I will have the annual match against the South West to report on and also the Autumn Tournament and AGM. The usual contact details for me tel: 01202 661106 mobile: 07966 386232 e-mail a.mccombie@ntlworld.com

Until next month

Alex McCombie



SOUTH EAST Derek Farrington

Tel: 01903 760 956

Kent

Another month has passed and I hope that you are all well.

I will get straight on with the information from the guest golf day that was held at Lydd GC on August 21. The course was in great condition and we would like to thank Simon Grand, Course Manager, and all of his staff for producing an excellent course. We would also like to thank the catering and clubhouse staff for all of their

efforts and the great food which we were privileged to have.

Onto the results: 1. Gary Branchett and Michael Wigston, 35pts; 2. Duncan Kelso and Ian Mitchell, 30pts (on count back); 3. Derek Farrington and Tony Englefield, 30pts.

As the scores may indicate, the wind was blowing and the water features came into play, at one stage I thought I might run out of golf balls and I know other competitors had the same thoughts.

We would like to thank Ernest Doe and Sons for the on-course refreshments and John Shaw Machinery for the free bar in the clubhouse. Driving Force Leisure, Scotts, Ernest Doe and Sons and John Shaw Machinery all provide prizes for the Competition or the raffle. Thank-you all for your sponsorship of the event.

I hope that you all have a good month and the weather is favourable for what ever you have planned.

Phil Belton



Essex

Finally our first away day out of the countryside of Essex got under away (after two years of organising) with us visiting the beautiful setting of Brocket Hall for our Autumn Tournament. With 56 players enduring one of the hottest days of golf I can ever remember, finding some shade and drinking plenty of fluid in between each shot was the order of the day.

Thanks to Brocket Hall in particular, Lindsey Smith, John Wells and the friendly hospitality shown by all of the staff. Congratulations to John Moorehouse and his greenkeeping team for having the course in excellent condition and despite the recent work to the greens (which showed to some guests that their clubs are not the only ones to carry out this type of work during the height of summer) it did not effect the scores.

We would like to thank the following Banks Amenity; Collier Turf Care; Driving Force Leisure; Ernest Doe & Sons; Gem Professional; P. Tuckwells Ltd; Rigby Taylor; Sheriff Amenity Services; Sovereign Turf and Symbio for sponsoring the day and on producing an excellent prize table.

Overall Winner. Geoff Smith 38 pts (back 6). Cat 1. 1. Steve Crosdale, 38 pts; 2. David Beale, 35 pts (back 9); 3. Dan Wilson, 35 pts. Cat 2. 1. Craig Serafin, 37 pts; 2. Graham Gallimore, 34 pts; 3. Scott Bibby, 33 pts (back 9). Guest. Neil Gale, 40 pts. Trade. Neil Peachey, 38 pts. Nearest The Pin. Dennis Smith (yes the D. Smith). Longest Drive. David Beal.

Do not forget our first winter and spring training course gets underway with a two day Tractor Driving Course, November 4&5, at the Essex Golf & Country Club.

The cost per candidate is £70.50(Inc vat), includes training, test as well as coffee/tea & biscuits and lunch each day.

To book your place please contact me on 01245 603131 or 07984867939.

Martin Forrester



East Anglia

Well, they don't come much better than that. I'm referring to a really lovely English summer day on a beautiful English golf course namely Aldeburgh in Suffolk. The course was in excellent condition, as ever, thanks to Mark and his team. The hospitality was first rate. They even replaced 'Lyndon's window' since the last time we were there!

The main sponsors for the day were; John Deere, Ben Burgess and Tomlinson Ground Care. The prizes were presented by Glen Ogalvie, the Club Captain, to Messers Peter Howard and Chris Bushell, 36 pts. Neil Worger and Scott Thompson, 36 pts. Ian Willett and Mervin Lambert, 36 pts. Nearest the Pin on the 8th, Peter Howard. Nearest the pin on the 17th, Mark Day. Longest Drive on the 7th, Neil Johns. Longest Drive on the 18th, Morman Fenwick. There was a split decision over the Loo Seat between John Morley Smith and Mark Ballitwell. I think Mark won (or lost however you look at it) by taking many shots from a bunker.

We must thank the trade for their loyal and generous support and they are:- Bartram Mowers; Rushbrook & Sons; Sisis; May and Baker (Brian was wearing a coat supplied by them, No wonder it had a hole in it!) I digress; Tacit; CMW; Sherriff; Ransomes Jacobsen; Atterton & Ellis and Collier Turf Care. Did I mention you all to ask myself? How I forgot Rigby Taylor.



Our thanks once again to George Gadney, Aldeburgh Secretary, and all at Aldeburgh Golf Club for such a marvellous day.

Thought for the day, 'A good drought will not harm a good course. If only we could convince the members of that. Bring back black and white televisions.'

Mick Lathrope

Surrey

It's early September and the rain, apart from the 12mm at the end of August, still hasn't arrived. So much for Merlin Willmott's prediction of monsoons. I just renew my seaweed, cut off my rheumatic toe and give the old witch who lives at the end of our street a good slap. Her ability to forecast the weather was no better than mine and I hate dancing under a full moon especially in the nude. Your khaki courses with little green dots will have to remain the fashion unless mother nature decides otherwise or your committee buys wall to wall irrigation.

Surrey and Sussex sections had a head to head confrontation at Cophthorn Golf Club on August 28 but, despite the home advantage, 12 Surrey stalwarts held the opposition to a conclusive draw. Even the powerful pairing of George Barr and Ian Semple could not prevail over an enthusiastic and unbeatable Surrey team (names available on request). We look forward to next year's match on home ground and a decisive victory.

David Andrews, due to circumstances that are becoming more and more prevalent in this industry, has resigned and left Purley Downs Golf Club after 25 years of loyal service.

Brian Willmott



Ach Eye.

Good weather for wearing your kilts. Yesterday I played golf at Portstewart Golf Club in the BIGGA qualifier. Conditions were perfect and so was the course and clubhouse hospitality. Many thanks to Bernhard Findlay and Portstewart Golf Club. The day was sponsored by Coburns, many thanks to them (I went to buy a Mars bar but William had bought the lot and wouldn't give me one!). Joking aside, we may be competitors in business but it is great that we all get on together so well. Thanks again Coburns.

It was good to meet Peter Boyd from the BIGGA Scottish Region, over to meet us and to encourage relations with our two groups.

I enjoyed playing golf with Noel Crawford, from RCD, and Michael Feeny, from City of Darry. I don't know why I carried my golf bag round when I could have carried Noel's and watched him play, I probably walked twice as far as he did.

Well, I now know the secret to good golf. Emmett Curran had an enormous Prawn sandwich, chips and a "Diet" Coke before play and he won the day. Michael King, from RCD, came second and they will represent Northern Ireland over in England. Well done and good luck, couldn't have been a better choice.

Results: Qualifier. 1. Emmett Curran, Downpatrick, 72 nett; 2. Michael King, RCD, 73 nett. Stableford. 1. Micky O'Neill, Fortwilliam GC; 2. Trevor Stuart, Royal Portrush GC; 3. Mick Webber, Portstewart GC; 4. Noel Crawford, RCDGC; 5. Peter Boyd, BIGGA Scotland; 6. Eamon Crawford - RCD GC; 7. Paul Lappin, Kirkistown GC. Longest Drive, Mick Webber, Portstewart, (and not BEN DOVER as listed). Nearest The Pin. Ken Henderson, Allen Park GC.

Congratulations to Paul Lappin again, Golfer of the Year.

I called to see my friend Vinny Magill, at Cairndhu GC, recently and as he walked towards me I noticed him limping I said Vinny you have a funny walk "I hope you don't mind me saying so" but you have one leg shorter than the other, he said I do mind you saying, in fact I think you have a down right cheek (Tommy Cooper Story). I played three holes while there and lost two golf balls, I told him. He said "It's a good job you didn't play 18" (true).

Finally our condolences to Ken Henderson with the recent loss of his father.

Any information contact me Tel: 07774 789111.

Graham Prosser



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