



Derek Farrington
SOUTH EAST, SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES
 Tel: 01903 260956



on: 07816 410552. Trust me, time and money well spent.

Now for something a little lighter. Ray Wise, First Assistant, has knocked-up 25 years excellent service at Great Barr Golf Club. From both the Section and your work colleagues, congratulations and keep up the good work Ray. Wishing you well for the next 20 in our fine profession.

We have two new members to welcome to our fine Section this month, Mr C. P. Jones and Mr R. Wakefield, both being from The Worcestershire Golf Club. We look forward to seeing you at our golf tournaments gentlemen. I hope that your handicaps are not as kind to your game as our Regional Chairman's, Gavin Robson. At a recent Regional Committee Stableford match he scored 41 points, of which contained two blobs. Great golf, Gavin, particularly off 21. What's the name of that Chinese soup?

Rhys has once again secured four superb venues for this year's golfing fixtures. These being: Spring, Olton; Summer, Moor Hall; Autumn, Hawkstone Park, and Christmas, Trentham Park.

For many years now, Mr A. Smith has served our Section as a diligent and knowledgeable committee member. Due to other commitments he has decided to stand down. I, the committee, and I am sure the members, would like to thank Andy for his input and commitment to the Section. Your counsel will be sorely missed Sir.

Looking forward to seeing you at BTME 19-22/1/04. Wishing us all a happy and prosperous New Year.

Sean McDade

Mid Anglia

Firstly, I must apologise to Nigel Phelan and his club. I wrote in last month's issue that he was from St Johns Hospital, but he in fact works at St Andrews Hospital. (How many of you noticed that one?). Sorry Nigel. I hope everyone has had a good Christmas and welcome to 2004.

On December 4, we took part in our final competition of the year at the well renowned Brocket Hall. With nearly 100 participants this was certainly a venue to be appreciated.

Our thanks go to John Moorhouse and his team for the excellent condition of the Melbourn course. Thanks also to the caterers for the traditional Christmas fare. With the format being Texas Scramble in teams of four the results were as follows:- 1. Berkhamsted, 59.2; 2. Boughton Loam, 59.4; 3. Mid Herts, 60.0. Longest Drive, Alan Grew, Berkhamsted. Nearest the Pin, Rob Caitlin, Seoul Nassau.

Congratulations to all who received prizes on the day. These were kindly donated by Avoncrop Amenity Products and our thanks go to our sponsors of the day and also to Barry McCloskey and Colin White for presenting them.

Hopefully, by the next issue, we should have confirmation on the education programmes and their dates and venues. As soon as we know, you will.

I hope everyone has a great 2004 and we as a committee would like to see more of you at the Spring, Summer and Autumn tournaments.

Venues are as follows:- John O'Gaunt, Spring, 36 holes; Mount Pleasant, Summer, 18 holes; Woburn, Autumn, 18 holes+AGM; Chesfield Downs, Winter, 18 holes Texas Scramble.

Steve Mason

East of England

First of all I would like to wish everyone a happy, prosperous and fusarium free New Year. Christmas over and done with for another year and we can all look forward to lighter nights (and mornings) and the playing season, that will be upon us before we know what's happened.

This is my first entry in Around the Green since taking over from Graeme MacDonald as Secretary, I would like to thank him for all his hard work over the years and for handing over some very well organised paper work.

Plans are well under way for a Section seminar day that will be some time in February or March. More information will appear in next month's magazine and invitations will be in the post as soon as I have confirmed the details.

Finally, if any one has any news about new jobs, marriages, new family additions or even winning a prize with a good day on the golf course please let me know. If you ever have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me on 07702 435122 or e-mail me at leslie.howkins@ntlworld.com

Les Howkins

East Midlands

The 2003 AGM was held at Kibworth GC. on November 12. We had 30 members attend the AGM with one or two interesting points being raised. Our present Chairman, Adi Porter, finished his term as Chairman, and was thanked by the incoming Chairman, Ian Needham, for his valuable work to the Section. The following committee were also duly elected. Vice-Chairman, Frank Kempster; Secretary, Antony Bindley; Treasurer, Gavin Robson. Committee members, Richard Barker, Adi Porter, Kevin Kinzer, Jamie Bedford, David James. Jeff Dickinson and Steve Goode had retired from the committee, and Richard Barker has retired as Treasurer.

Before all this took place we all had the pleasure of playing the course, in a three-man Texas Scramble format, the winning score of 64-3.2-60.8. belonged to Simon Banks, Adrian Rhodes and Greg Skinner. 2. Richard Barker, Kevin Kinzer and Andy McGreal 67-4.6-62.4.

Thanks should go to Kibworth Golf Club for courtesy of their fine course, Rival Catering for a truly grand meal, and Chris Butlin and his staff for a well presented golf course.

Once again could I please remind all members to enclose their entry form and cheque before the closing date. Next years Spring Tournament will be held at Kirby Muxloe Golf Club on May 12.

Finally there are two places going spare for a Chainsaw course at Beedles Lake Golf Club on March 2 & 3 if anybody is interested please give me a ring.

Antony Bindley



Devon and Cornwall

Our second Autumn meeting was held at Bigbury Golf Club on Wednesday 19th November. The day started with Rob Guntrip of Devon Garden Machinery starting our golfing members on the 1st tee. Thirty-four members were competing for the DGM sponsored Toro Trophy. The remaining 25 members were escorted on the customary course walk with Head Greenkeeper, Graham Davis.

After some light refreshments, we were treated to a superb three course lunch so a big thank you to the catering team. I would like to thank Bigbury Golf Club and their staff for the use of their excellent facilities and the warm welcome extended to us. I would also like to thank Graham and his staff for presenting his golf course in fantastic condition. Graham has always been an ardent supporter of our Section and the golf course is a credit to him. Another big thank you has to go to our sponsor for the day, Alan Domett of Devon Garden Machinery, for his continued sponsorship. Alan has supported our Section for more years than I can remember and it was great to see him looking so well after his recent illness. After lunch, we held our AGM and everything went quite smoothly. There was little change to the committee apart from Martin Samuel, of Sheriff Amenity, who was voted on as new Trade Member replacing Billy Spratt who has left the industry.

Unfortunately, I will be standing down as Secretary in January 2004 due to personal reasons and a successor is currently being sought. It has been an honour and a privilege to be the Secretary of the Devon and Cornwall Section. A truly fantastic bunch of lads (and lady Katie Walls) with the friendship and comoradary second to none. And after all that, anybody wishing to fill my boots, please give me a ring!

After the AGM, we held the prize giving. Winners of the Toro Trophy were Simon Coombes, from Dainton Park, and Dave Harding, from Exeter, with a staggering 49 pts. Second with 48 pts were Simon Saunders and Scott McAuley, from Woodbury Park, and third were Simon Clarke and Justin Woods, from St Mellion, with 47 pts. Bill Mitchell, from Perranporth, won the Course Walk prize, Jim Arthur's book Practical Greenkeeping 2nd Edition. Bill also won the Course Walk prize last month, which was Jim Arthur's book Practical Greenkeeping 1st Edition! Guess who ain't getting a raffle ticket next month, Bill? Although I have to say, he did give back his last month's prize and after a redraw, Richard Wisdom, of Okehampton, won the first edition.

Dates for your diary: Our meeting at Royal North Devon on January 14, with

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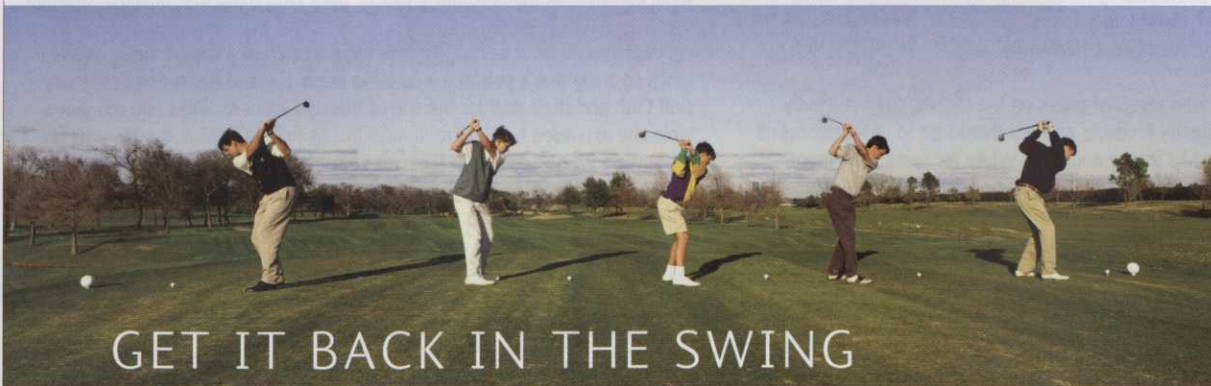
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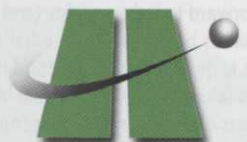
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Andy Cole, of PSD Agronomy, presenting the afternoon educational talk. Andy is one of the top agronomists in the country and one certainly not to be missed.

The BTME trip to Harrogate is from Tuesday, January 20 to Friday, January 23. Amenity Technology are once again sponsoring the coach and the package cost is £140 per person sharing a twin room. Please contact our Regional Administrator Derek Farrington on 01903 260956 for further details.

Steve Evans

South West

So Christmas is over. There are more needles on the floor than on the tree. Holiday and diet adverts are on the telly and guess what? I am writing this article the day after another successful golf day (it's like back to the future doing these articles). Our Christmas tournament was at Lansdown Golf Club. Dare I say a few problems were apparent with certain aspects of the course but I am sure things will improve in the near future. Thanks for your superb hospitality. Results as follows: In first place, local talent, Richard Carter along with A. Matthews with a score of 68. 2nd place. Paul Godwin, now with Kendleshire Golf Club, after 15 long hard years at Tracey, sorry the Gloucestershire, and playing partner, John Batchelor, 68. Third, more local talent, Rob Lane, of Lansdown, and partner Wayne Vincent, 64.

Nearest the Pins. John Keenaghan and Allister Turner, a rare sight on the golf course, but accurate. A total of 40 on the day. Nobby would like to thank all helpers and participants for their continued support and not forgetting our fabulous patronage sponsors, BS Mowers, Irritech, Amtec, Abbots, Rigby Taylor, Avoncrop, Bioseeds, ALS, Roffeys, and Symbio.

I personally haven't witnessed the Dave Baugen makeover myself and I have it on good authority that it was real and not a 'syrup'. But was it really a purple perm or just a trick of the light? Apparently Robin Greaves was seen later trying to sell a copy of Jim Arthur's, Practical Greenkeeping on the streets of Bristol mumbling something about needing a bed for the night.

On a slightly more serious note, as a Section we are hoping to run a follow up to the Frank Newbury head office sponsored two-day presentation skills course held here at Bath, sometime in late February early March. It's a fantastic course so please contact me if you are interested, I should have some prices soon. Don't forget the training express risk assessment day again here at Bath Golf Club, January 27.

Good luck for the forthcoming year and may the Spring be kind to us all.

See you soon

Guy Woods

South Wales

Hello folks and welcome to another episode of Around the Green, the section, where nosy parkers, yes that's you, read what's going on in the Regions across the Country.

Firstly, I would like to wish Adrian Panks (Strimmer boy from Dudley) all the best and a quick recovery after a recent illness. Any excuse to get out of writing this article.

Secondly, the Lord was looking down on one Andy Roach, when Andy teed off on a par 3 in the recent Welsh Amateur Championships and accidentally hit it straight into the hole for a one. Well done and although we were not there we will all gladly accept a drink at the next meeting.

Thirdly, I hope the New Heads and their families from Langland and Neath are settling down and are enjoying working and living in Wales.

Some results: Rigby Taylor Match-play. Daryl Bray & Lee Jones beat Gareth Evans & Alun Crichton; Jamie Probert & Herbie Probert Beat Andrew Phillips & Neil Ruck; Jim McKenzie & Jake Waites beat Angus Macloed & Mark Wilshire; A. Panks & G Humphries beat Dave Gladwin & Alain Morgan; Henry Stead & Dai Morgan beat Andy Roach & Micky Davies and

R Anderson & P Holmstrom beat Emyr Nickels & Adam Jones.

Overall Winners. Lee Davies and Daryl Bray, both Morrision, beat Fescue Pete Lacey, Pennard, and Steve "Smooth Talk" Mills, Gower.

Education.

Now is the time to start organising and enrolling onto course for the next year – our Section college, Pencoed are running excellent courses for all abilities and are pro active in the development of greenkeeping so if you would like to or you know of any one that would benefit from their services then give

Paul Discombe a call for a chat and a prospectus on 01656 302600 or email enquiries@Brigend.ac.uk

The BIGGA website has been running a discussion forum covering all issues that greenkeepers come up against all the time and I would encourage all to participate as it is useful resource for information.

The BTME Exhibition fast is approaching and hopefully you will have take the opportunity to visit this excellent exhibition and get updated on the modern techniques and machinery.

Question - Do you think these shows work and how many of you will benefit from your visit or is it pointless? Your feedback is much appreciated.

You can contact me on email KerryjokoJones@yahoo.co.uk

I have been prompted by PL to post the score by which they beat me and my partner by in the Rigby Taylor Matchplay - Kerry Jones & Darryl Jones lost to Peter Lacey & Steve Mills 6 & 5. Fluke

Cofion cynnes/Best wishes.

Kerry Jones

SOUTH EAST

Surrey

Sorry about the lack of input into last month's Around The Green but news was either nil or too late for the magazine deadline. I trust you all had a Merry Christmas and are looking forward to a New Year that will bring the ideal weather for whatever your course requires.

My seaweed indicates that the weather in 2004 will bring joy to your hearts but remember it is more probable that your greens committee will bring a pain to another part of your anatomy. November 24, 2003 was the date of the annual England vs Scotland battle at Hankley Common Golf Club and due to some misunderstanding, which in the opinion of all the other team members was due entirely to my age and gradual loss of brain cells. If true I offer my sincere apologies to both team Captains. Perhaps next year to avoid embarrassment and confusion they should both assume I am playing for the other team and let me sit quietly in the clubhouse bar while trying to remember who and where I am. The result was a draw and therefore England retain the Cup.

Surrey Section had its Turkey Trot and AGM at Royal Epsom Golf Club on December 4 and as expected the course was, in Mark Harvey's opinion, excellent and the best it's been since the defection to Essex of that humble and abstemious Scotsman, Mr Douglas Ignatius Fernie. We all enjoyed a windswept game a few beers in the bar and a most enjoyable traditional Christmas dinner. The result was: 1. Chris (Sharkie) Hartnett, 40pts, Addington Palace Golf Club; 2. Derek Cunliffe, 37pts, Old Thorns Golf Club; 3. Tony Bremer, 37pts, Dorking Golf Club. Nearest the Pin was officially won by that great golfer, Tim (Tacit) Webb, but he graciously declined the spotlight as Tacit were the sponsors and so Adam Lunoe, from Richmond Golf Club, received the prize. Longest Drive, into the wind and easily over 100 yards, was delivered by Rob George, Coombe Hill Golf Club.

The AGM had an attendance of over 60 members and was conducted and concluded in a very efficient manner. Billy McMillan confirmed that Bert Watson retires this month from Tyrrells Wood Golf Club and requested that he should be made a life member of BIGGA. Derek Farrington has put the necessary wheels in motion and I hope soon to report that this has been agreed. Good luck, Bert and have a great retirement.

It was also announced by Anthony Freeman that, sadly, Ted Stiles died on Monday November 10. Ted was a most enthusiastic member of the Surrey Section and served for many years on the committee. He was a keen swimmer and played water polo for the county. Ted was also an engineer in the Merchant Navy before joining the Drift Golf Club as a Mechanic/Greenkeeper. Several members attended the cremation service at Walton and a floral tribute was presented on behalf of you all. Paul Weston has been sent a card from Sheila, Ted's wife, thanking Surrey Section for fond memories of golf, snooker and a few friendly pints.

Your committee had its latest meeting on December 1, at Epsom Golf Club. The venues for 2004 events are almost complete and include the following golf clubs, Cuddington, Coombe Wood, Clandon Regis, Laleham and Sunningdale. The Gentleman's Dinner at Walton Heath will be on March 12. Details of this year's Bioseed Bowl will be sent soon but please remember that all competitors must have an official BIGGA, golf club or golf handicap to enter.

Brian Willmott

NORTHERN IRELAND

Well, did you get to the show in Dublin? I stayed in a really posh hotel with the boys from Raddison Roe Park Golf Club. I arrived first and sat in the bar, while sipping my pint. I looked around, the bar/restaurant was packed full of very smartly dressed people. I certainly would sooner keep the women for a week than a fortnight. Then, all of a sudden, four boys from Limavady walked in. Priceless!

I don't know who phoned me in the middle of the night but I found myself talking to someone on a 'big white telephone'. I remember my mummy used to hold my forehead but Lawrence couldn't have cared less. He asked 'Were you talking to someone?' Some folks need it spelling out, don't they?

John Nolan, from Edmonds Town GC, Dublin, was looking very well indeed. Maybe his honeymoon in South Africa contributed to that. Congratulations, John.

Mr President. I first met the Pres 40 years ago. He came down from Scotland and joined the police SVC (scratch golfer by the way). He was our local rural Bobby. On his night shift he used to set off in his Morris Traveller (do you remember those wooden framed estate cars?), drive round to the local village pub, lift the rear end and put a crate under the axle. He'd put it into first gear, let it run, spend the night in the pub and take her back in the morning with the miles on the clock. Happy Days. He represented the British Police at Golf and played at Royal Portrush, a long time ago. He said the only thing he can remember was looking out of his hotel window in the morning and seeing someone coming down the road on his bike. The only thing keeping him on the road was he kept hitting the kerb either side of the road. He eventually came up to a pub, got off his bike, let it go and walked straight into the bar. I didn't think Joe Findlay was at Portrush then.

Now Serious.

At the AGM on December 3, officers were elected. Ken Henderson, Chairman; Emmett Curran, Secretary; Micky O'Neill, Treasurer and comps and Andrew Kerr, Education.

A special thanks was conveyed again to sponsors of the year. I, in error, forgot to thank Karl Veshar, of Vesta Irrigation, for the sponsorship at the golf day at Portstewart Golf Club and Coburns for sending two players to England. Please accept my apologies. Once again thank you to all the companies who have contributed this year.

Very Serious.

The AGM was poorly attended. Your committee works very hard to provide you with golf days, education events, conferences etc. So, it was very disappointing that you couldn't turn up for one evening either just to express your dissatisfaction or your compliments, or to provide some input into what is, after all, your group. I'm sorry if I have touched a nerve but then I hope I have.

Mickey O'Neill and Ken Henderson won the quiz. Not surprising as Ken got me to repeat every damn question. Andrew Kerr and Jonathan McCabe picked up the booby, again not surprising as Jonathan said he is still on honeymoon.

Once again sorry for what I have said but it needed to be.

Graham Prosser

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This competition is not open to BIGGA Staff or non-members.

The solution to the December Turftime Teaser was 'MJ Abbott'. The lucky winner of the Sony CD Walkman is Tim McCreadie from Royston Golf Club - WELL DONE!

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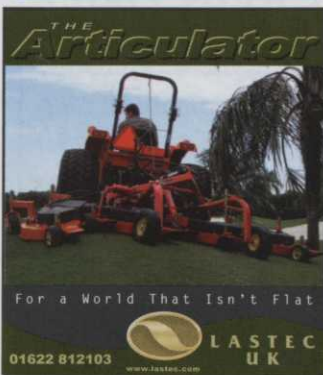
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Full BIGGA members only may apply to be considered for the Team, and must apply to: John Pemberton, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York, YO61 1UF. Should you require any further information then John can be contacted on 01347 833800 or via e-mail: john@bigga.co.uk

Closing date for applications for the Open: Friday 13 February 2004.

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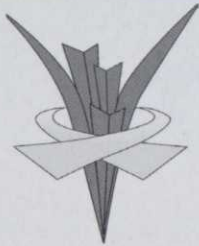
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