

if any one has got ideas on subjects please let me know ASAP.

Venues for next year's golf days are also needed, so please let me know if you are interested in us using your course.

#### Les Howkins

#### BB&O

October can be miserable with a bit of winter slowly creeping in, as the central heating fires up for the first time this year it reminds me of the good summer we had and makes me look forward to more days when I got frazzled in the sun, on the other hand this is the time of year when the strangest of species have gone into hibernation, "The Golfer", who can still sometimes be seen on Sunday mornings and is easily recognisable with colourful clothing, streaming nose, red cheeks and pale blue face.

Firstly there are a few new members to welcome to our Section. All the way from the land where scrumpy cider is the tippie of the day in Devon is Craig Earnshaw, from Dartmouth G&CC, who takes on a new position as deputy at Lambourne GC and a welcome to Claire Killmurray who is covering the BBO as Technical Sales Representative for Vitax.

Forthcoming events for 2005 are in motion as The Rigby Taylor Pairs Knockout Challenge is alive and positively looking for entrants for next year, under the guidance of Gareth Acteson who has taken control for organising the competition.

The report for the Clay Pigeon Shooting Day, Turkey Trot and Annual General Meeting will follow in next month's magazine. Other new events included for 2005 are a match play format England v Rest of the World and "Scotland" game for which the date and venue will be announced shortly.

Any member wishing to participate please contact the Secretary, John Scoones, on 07880 550 380.

#### Mark Day

#### Mid Anglia

Just a few things this month readers. Firstly, on behalf of the Section & the committee we must say a big thank you to John Wells, of Brocket Hall, for his many years of service on the committee. This year John is stepping down due to work & family commitments and also to just have a bit of time to himself. His contribution to the Section will be greatly missed, thanks John!

We have some dates for our meetings of 2005, they are as follows:

Spring: April 27, Royston GC. Summer: TBC. Autumn: Oct 6, Heydon Grange GC. Winter: Dec 8, Dunstable Downs. Watch this space for dates of next year's educational seminars on soil science & irrigation, which is pencilled in for Feb/Mar 2005. That's all for now, wrap up warm.

#### Bob Butfoy

### SOUTH EAST

#### Kent

The next Kent Section event will be a golf day to be held at Birchwood Park Golf Club on Thursday November 25. An 18 hole competition will be followed by dinner. On this day we shall take the opportunity to have an EGM to reform the Section and an AGM to elect a committee and discuss the future of the Section. Members will be notified with full details in due course.

#### London

Welcome to another edition of Around the Green. News seems to be very scarce at the moment so you may end up reading quite a lot of waffle, though that may not be any different to any previous edition.

Obviously we had Saltex in September, which is always a good day to catch up with other greenkeepers in our industry at the present time. Also in September, we had the Ryder Cup, which for me is the best sporting event in the world. I may be unique here, but I actually had butterflies waiting for the Europeans to tee off. So god only knows how the players themselves felt. Anyway it was a great spectacle and a great victory, so roll on the K Club.

I also have news of one of our members, Tony Kyle, whom although based in Surrey, has remained loyal to London. His club, Surrey Downs, have just completed the brand new clubhouse to go with the relatively new course that Tony has been at for the past 18 months. I have visited Tony a number of times and he has produced a great course for his employers who seem hell bent on beating off all local competition.

As well as the course, Tony and his staff have built a large practice tee for the Pro and they undertook all the landscaping for the clubhouse, which looks terrific, so fair play to Tony and his staff, whom I bet can't wait for a slow down this winter.

I am just in the middle of trying to purchase a whole new fleet of equipment, which will be of huge benefit if successful, but as we know, it is a lot easier to come up with all the logistics and figures when it's not actually our money Still I will keep trying and see what happens.

Lastly I hope people have been sending in their cheques for the London BIGGA education day and we see a good response, as a lot of effort has been made to make it a success.

Alec Macindoe 07780 95581

### SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES

#### South West

Here we are in November, the start of another winter, lets hope it is a nice dry one and everybody can complete their winter programmes.

You will be glad to hear the Region has interviewed people for the vacant position of Regional Administrator. The interviews took place at Long Aston GC on October 7. On the interview panel was Chris Sealy, Regional Chairperson, Jeff Mills, from Devon & Cornwall, and John Pemberton, from HQ.

I understand that the Region had some very fine candidates for the job, so hopefully we will all soon meet the successful applicant.

Please support the Regional seminar at Cannington College, on November 17, I bet you will learn something new! Thanks to the seminar event sponsors.

The South West Section tried to play a match against the South Coast Section, at Ogtourne Down, on September 30, but our opponents failed to field a team.

Next month you will be able to read a report on our AGM, held at Chipping Sodbury, on October 11. In anticipation the committee wants to say congratulations to all the members who put themselves forward for the very important jobs on the Section committee.

#### Robin Greaves

#### South Coast

Autumn is here and the cold mornings are not quite as appealing when you're sat on a triple mower. No doubt those hardened men at Came Down are still working in their shorts and t-shirts (Dorchester men are made of stern stuff!) but for us softies, we're looking for the thermals already, it must be my age!

For those of us blessed with trees it's a constant battle keeping up with the endless amount of falling needles and leaves, so our blowers and collectors are working overtime. Aeration programmes are stepped up as we prepare for the winter and as usual our old 'friend' Fusarium pays us a visit or two. Ahh the life of a greenkeeper! We wouldn't want it any other way would we?

Unfortunately our annual match against the South West Section had to be postponed but another date will be arranged shortly so I will pass on the results when I get them.

The South Coast Section 2004 tour arrived at Dudsbury Golf Club for the autumn tournament, kindly sponsored by Rigby Taylor and Banks Amenity Products. It has been a while since I last played Dudsbury and how the course has changed and matured.

My golf has always been erratic at the best of times and I do remember when playing there several years ago that my ball was strangely attracted to the many water hazards, so you can imagine my delight to find out they had added a few more! Needless to say my golf bag was considerably lighter by the end of my round.

The weather on the day was excellent and the very testing course was in excellent condition thanks to the hard work of Bob Walker and his team.

It was great to see Matt Smith back on his old track for the day and it was inevitable Matt would win the longest drive. It's good to hear he has settled in well in his new position at Sonning and we wish him well.

The greenkeeping team may not have known Matt was playing as they had only placed the marker some 270 yards from the 18<sup>th</sup> tee. I didn't see where his drive finished but lets just say Matt said it was a 'good hit' so I assume it was around the 300 yards mark. Winners on the day were:

Division 1 Roffey Trophy. 1. Matt Smith, 39pts; 2. Stuart Hooker, 36pts. Division 2 Huxley Shield. 1. Dave Hewitt, 43pts; 2. Phil Wentworth, 34pts.

Division 1 Rigby Taylor Shield. 1. Chris Sherrington, 38pts; 2. Wayne Norris,

35pts. Vets Cup. Colin Pardey, 35pts. Denyer Cup. Shaun Whittle, 33pts. Longest Drive. Matt Smith. Nearest the Pin. Tim Rocky.

An excellent day was had by all and Dave Hewitt is getting a reputation as the Section bandit, beware Dave your handicap is being revised as we speak!

Thanks on the day go to our sponsors, Rigby Taylor and Banks Amenity Products, for their much valued support. It was a shame Simon Banks was unable to attend but work commitments prevented it, well he is married now and needs those extra pennies as us married men know all too well!

Many thanks to Dudsbury Golf Club for their hospitality, the catering staff for an excellent meal and to Bob Walker and his team for all their hard work in preparing the course so well for us.

Lastly, but by no means, thanks to our tournament organiser Chris Sturgess for all his hard work in organising the day for us and to Bob Williams for kindly doing the scorecards. The Section AGM was held after the golf and ran very smoothly again and I will report in full next month.

Two well known faces in our Section are not in the best of health at the moment, keeping them away from work, and we wish both Mike Buckle and Colin 'chalky' White quick and speedy recoveries. A belated happy 80th birthday to our Section President, Jim Fry. Jim is a great supporter of our Section and has again given Section funds a very generous donation, thank you Jim and we do hope to see you at our Christmas meeting at Barton-on-Sea.

Another couple of movements in the Section, good luck to Mark Zealander in his new position at Dudsbury Golf Club. Broadstone Golf Club said farewell to Terry Elborn as he moved into the conservation field with the local council. Terry's knowledge and love of the environment and its management has seen him change direction and I'm sure it will be highly rewarding and successful for him, good luck Terry!

At Parkstone we said farewell to Rob Wills who had been at the club 10 years man and boy. Again Rob has left the industry and taken a career change into the world of insurance and he will be sadly missed by us all. It seems a worrying trend that so many young greenkeepers are leaving the industry and Rob certainly had a great future in our industry, but fate has taken him down another path. One thing for sure, if Rob puts the same commitment and enthusiasm into his new job he will be very successful.

Our last port of call for the year is Barton-on-Sea Golf Club, on December 8, for our Turkey Trot. Could we possibly have the same weather as we had last time we played there two years ago? I hope so!

Please forward your entries and cheques made payable to BIGGA South Coast Section to Chris Sturgess, BIGGA Tournament Organiser, South Coast Section, 40 Kinsbourne Way, Thornhill, Southampton, SO19 6HB.

Well I think that's all for this month so until next month.

**Alex McCombie**

#### **Devon & Cornwall**

Wednesday October 13 the Section held its first meeting of the autumn at St Mellion International Golf Club, near Saltash in Cornwall, sponsored by Roffey Limited, and Don Hunt, playing for the D.O.Hunt Trophy. Driving to St Mellion at 6am, the heavens opened, the rain was so heavy that the roads were flooded in seconds. Suddenly I was beginning to panic, would the course be playable, if closed how would I re-arrange the day's programme? On arrival I was greeted by some very worried golfers' faces that were looking forward to playing the now famous Jack Nicklaus Course. I should have known better, thanks to Mike Bush, known to all as Bushy, the Golf Course Superintendent, he waved his magic wand, and at 7.45am as the players teed off and the sun broke through, and blue skies remained all day.

Our congratulations go to Bushy and all his staff for preparing the course in such good condition, especially as he was receiving 80 tons a day of Tarmac for the new Buggy paths, from Golf Course Head Greenkeeper to Highways engineer, life is certainly varied.

54 Golfers took part in the competition a Stableford off full handicaps, and playing off the yellow tees.

The Course Superintendent, Mike, treated some 30 non-golfers to a tour of the excellently presented course, and his workshops.

After lunch I presented the golfing prizes to; 1. Andy Parker, Downs Crediton Golf Club, 36pts; 2. Mark Evans, Royal North Devon GC, 34pts; 3. Adam Bridgewater, Yelverton GC, 34 pts.

Before the afternoon educational talk, I was delighted to introduce our new Regional Administrator, Jane Jones, who was given a very warm welcome by everyone. Officially Jane does not commence until November, but we were all delighted she spent the day with us, we all wish her well with her new appointment.

Richard Whyman, the Head Greenkeeper at the Bunham & Berrow Golf Course,

our old friend from Bude, gave us a superb talk and presentation on "The Learning Curve Continues, Until the world stops going around" which just goes to prove we are never to old to learn.

Members playing the Jack Nicklaus Course, and the Guest Speaker, were instrumental in producing the largest attendance for a very long time, 84 in total.

On behalf of the Section I would like to thank Mr John Granger, the General Manager at St Mellion International, for allowing us to use the facilities for the day, and to all of his staff for making us so welcome.

I hope to see you all at Wrangaton Golf Club, on November 10<sup>th</sup> for the AGM, and playing golf in the morning for the Toro Trophy sponsored by D.G.M.

**Donovan.O.Hunt.**

#### **South Wales**

A successful open day was held at Pencoed College on June 26, an excellent increase of 200% enrolment to the college course was achieved. Thanks go to Angus and Dave Ward for their efforts on the day, especially with the terrible weather they experienced.

A big well done must go to Angus Macload. Newport Golf Club, Peter "shank" Lacey and Marc Wilshire for passing their HNC Sportsturf Management, well done guys.

A seminar has been organised at Cannington College on November 17, titled 'The Environment', and many leading people are scheduled to talk, please make every effort to attend. It's priced at £15 for non-members and £17.50 for non-members, why not get a member of your committee involved.

A tractor driving training day has been booked at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club; contact Peter Lacey for dates and times.

Dennis Archer has decided to stand down as Vice President of the South Wales Section, may I, on behalf of the whole Section, thank Dennis for his long commitment to the greenkeeping profession and BIGGA. We wish him all the best in his retirement.

Next year's golfing fixtures are being organised, the secretary has sent out requests to clubs, so we will inform you when they are accepted.

Congratulations Lance Armstrong, of Porthcawl Golf Club, whom recently got married in Chicago during a joint wedding with his sister.

Emyr Nickels is recovering from some broken ribs, I am sure he would not mind me telling you the story. Emyr was enjoying some lunch in a restaurant, suddenly he had a piece of food stuck in his throat.

Not wanting to cause a fuss he went to the toilet to try and un-lodge it, however there was no joy so he ask a fellow scoffer to do the Heimlich Manoeuvre, the guy grabbed him and squeezed him dislodging the piece of food.

Excellent so we thought, but the guy had squeezed so hard that he snapped two of Emyr's ribs! Emyr I hope this does make you laugh a bit and cringe at pain.

**Kerry Jones**

#### **Northern Ireland**

Our final golf tournament of the year took place at Malone Golf Club, in Belfast, on September 16. The stroke play competition was a qualifier to the National Championship, which was held near Leeds in early October.

The afternoon's weather soon deteriorated by the second hole, so heavy rain and strong winds prevailed throughout the round. These conditions seem to suit the Royal Co. Down lads, and once again brothers Noel and Eamonn Crawford played fine rounds to book their places to Leeds.

Noel Crawford, playing off Scratch, had a gross round of 73 two over, while Eamonn, playing with a two handicap, had a gross round of 75. Excellent rounds of golf in very difficult conditions. The results of the Stableford competition were:

Paul Lappin, Kirkstown GC, 33pts; 2. Michael O'Neill, Fortwilliam GC, 32 pts; 3. Michael Norman, Malone GC, 31 pts. Longest Drive. Paul Lappin. Nearest the Pin. Michael Norman

We would like to thank Coburns of Banbridge for sponsoring the competitions as well as the air fares to the Championship. Many thanks to the Corburns representatives, William Cartmill and David Eager, who braved the conditions and were able to present the prizes later that evening.

Many thanks must go to Malone GC for giving us courtesy of the course. Very worthy praise must go to Course Manager Michael Norman and the greenkeeping staff for having the course in such outstanding condition, even with the recent wet weather. New members joining the Section recently are William Gilmore, Andrew Wray, Kevin Gates, John Taylor and Peter Jones.

Well that's about all my news for this month, let's hope for a dry autumn and winter period, at least till we get our new bunkers completed.

**Ken Henderson**

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The solution to the October Turftime Teaser was 'Bredy irrigation'.

The lucky winner of the waterproof winter gear was Jeremy Smith from Rushdon Golf club in Northants -WELL DONE!!

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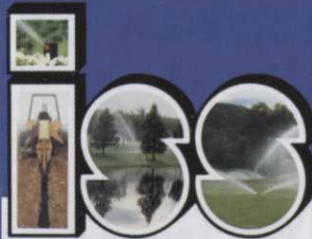
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