

Peter Larter NORTHERN & MIDLAND Tel: 01476 550115



midday. We have 50 places, so please return your entry form to Derek as soon as possible to avoid missing this great opportunity.

The AGM this year will be held in conjunction with a machinery demonstration from Hamilton Bros. West Kilbride Golf Club will host the day on Thursday October 21.

Patron award winners for this year are Jim Paton, West Kilbride, and yours truly. A warm welcome to new members Steven Kelly, Lockerbie, John Muir, Largs Routenburn, and Ian MacDonald, Largs Kelburn.

Congratulations to all the team at Royal Troon for producing a beautifully conditioned course for one of the best Opens in recent memory.

I can't help thinking wouldn't it be great if there was another course in Ayrshire able to host the Open, so that we could get that electric atmosphere twice as often!! DREAM! DREAM! DREAM!

Any news or constructive criticism then call me on 07939 104 701. Denis Tweddell

Central

We begin this month's report by welcoming another three members to the Section and they are Mark Logan, from Lochwinnoch Golf Club, Alistair MacFadyen, from Crieff Hydo Golf Club, and former member Mark Laing, from Aberdour Golf Club, who is making a welcome return to the Section. You should all have received your entry forms for the Autumn Tournament at Downfield later this month, so perhaps we will get an early opportunity to meet your there.

It is nearly time for the AGM again and arrangements are being made to organise it for the last week of next month, hopefully on the 27th, no doubt you will all be putting this date in your diary as an event not to miss. Dream on! It will be the usual few who turn up, we'll all end up on the committee and spend our own time organising events which hardly any of you bother to support, still, we can always live in hope.

The Central Section must have the most educated greenkeepers in the country, as we have asked for subjects for educational events and so far not one member has come forward with any suggestions - of an educational nature.

Latest winners in Club 2000 are L.Brunton with No60 and S.Lee with No 401, well done to you both, your cheques are in the post, only another three draws to go and that will see the end of the Section's only fund raising venture. What can we think up next?

At the time of writing this report we have not yet finalised our nominees for the annual Patron's Awards, awarded to the most supportive members of the Section, so I will include our choices in next month's news, along with how the Section team fared in the Norrie Whytock Trophy at Auchterarder Golf Club in August and any other relevant matters.

Question time!

Are you happy with the way the Section, or for that matter the Association is being run? Do you feel you are getting value for your membership fee? Do you feel that you are being asked to give financial support to far too many Section events? Are Section events too expensive to attend? What do you really expect your Section committee to do on your behalf?

After all every committee member gives up at least one evening a month to attend a meeting to organise events on your behalf.

I can hear you all saying, "Here he goes again". Well I have got good news for you, it won't be for much longer, then someone else can have a go.

As you will have gathered it has been a struggle to put together a report on Section matters each month this year, so unless someone sends me some news, you will just have to put up with my drivel for the time being! John Crawford

North

Some new members to report this month and they are Michael Nicholl, Course Manager at Shetland GC, Calum Fraser, greenkeeper at Brechin GC, and Chris Nicholl, apprentice at Fraserburgh GC.

The Section were represented at the Open this year by lain Macleod, Tain GC, lain Gunn, Strathpeffer GC, and Duncan Adams and George Mitchell, of Newmachar GC.

I would like to thank John and Scott and the other BIGGA staff for their

efforts to make everything run smoothly and our own Board of Management. Also a special mention to Peter Boyd, Bert Cross and Ian Holloran.

The autumn outing will be at Westhill GC on September 9 and hopefully there will be a good turnout. The retiring secretary of many years Dougal Duguid is Course Manager at Westhill and it would be a fitting send off for him to have a large turnout.

The AGM is to be at the end of October at one of the clubs at the links in Aberdeen, you will receive due notice by post. Murcar GC has been fixed up for the Spring outing.

Brian Anderson, the Course Manager at Murcar GC, recently had an accident at work and we wish him a speedy recovery. No more news to report at the moment, so have a successful end of summer and autumn season. lain Gunn



North Wales

September grass is the sweetest kind, or so say's James Taylor. September also brings the SALTEX IOG show at the Windsor Showground 7 - 9 so if there are any of you wishing to purchase 'play area equipment' or a 'climbing frame' for the kids, you should get yourself down there!

On a more serious note, Dave Parry, from Prestatyn GC, has had a major spate of direct vandalism at the course, a residual weedkiller has been deliberately sprayed on 16 of the 18 greens. One green was attacked first then a month later a further 15 were contaminated with this chemical.

Tests are being carried out by Alistair Beggs at the STRI Laboratory, Bingley, as cores have been taken from the greens. Dave has also irrigated them heavily with wetting agent and double overseeded in an attempt to gain coverage over the dying areas.

If anyone out there has had a similar thing happen to them and know of any 'quick fix' please give Dave a call at the club. The police are still seeking the person(s) involved and any information received will be treated in the strictest confidence by the North Wales Constabulary.

The Golf Management Trophy was a huge success held at Carden Park on August 23 and was well attended by BIGGA members who brought along committee members from there respective clubs, including Greens Chairmen, Secretaries and Captains, etc who interacted with members of other clubs to gain a better knowledge of what BIGGA is about and place a positive image within their clubs.

This came only two weeks after Carden hosted the major event of the year -The European Seniors which consisted of players from all around the world, including the Ryder Cup Captain of 2002 Sam Torrance.

The 'OPEN' at Royal Troon this year saw a 75 strong support team involved with the bunker raking of the matches and they were treated once again to some spectacular shot making. The Claret Jug again goes stateside as another little known American lifted the title.

I managed to get myself another caddie job as my club professional Anthony Millar came through regional qualifying at Little Aston GC, then after a two man play off at Glasgow Gailes LFQ we got the last spot to get into Troon.

Two full practise days helped a level par front nine on the first day, but after coming around Amen corner 10, 11, 12 saw us drop 5 shots finishing +7 after day one. Day two didn't get any better and we were on our way home on the Friday night. I would just like to personally thank Wilson Golf of Irvine for all their help, sponsorship and advice whilst we were up there.

Finally I would like to thank John Pemberton for asking me to sit on the Steering Committee of BIGGA, and having attended my first meeting at the end of July I found it very interesting looking into the future planning of the BTME show and hope my input as an exhibiting trade member was of help to the discussions.

Until next month. Any news views or comments please give me a call. Mesen Cymru

Andrew Acorn

Northern

Firstly, I'd like to welcome new members Colin Goodwin and Thomas Bradford, who have both joined the Section this month.

I'm pleased to announce that a date has at long last been set for the Christmas Golf. It will take place on Thursday December 9. The venue is Crow Nest Park Golf Club, Brighouse. As usual, a coach is likely to be booked in order that a more festive day can be had by all attending!

In next month's report I will bring you the results of August's Invitation Day. If you would like to put your name down early for the Autumn Tournament and AGM to be held at Low Laithes on October 13, just get in touch, my details are Adam Speight, 16a Hodgson Fold, Myers Lane, Bradford BD2 4EB

Tel: 01274 638366, Mobile 07739319060 Email adam@speight1156.fslife.co.uk Adam Speight

North West

The end of July and not much happening in the Section, at least no news had come through to me, but please if you have any snippets of news let me know as it makes my job much easier.

Nationally plenty has happened with what was probably one of the most exciting finishes to the Open at Royal Troon. Once again BIGGA where present to carry out the duties of the support team, namely early morning bunker raking '4am', accompanying each game to rake bunkers, record the amount of bunkers the players found, assisting the scorers and the youngsters carrying the scoreboards.

This year we really were international, with greenkeepers from Canada, America, Sweden, Germany and Spain, all enjoying the opportunity to be a part of the greatest golf tournament in the world.

The course was in superb condition and Billy McLachlan, the Course Manager, and his staff must be very proud of themselves as they received many praises from both players and officials. Next year St. Andrews is the venue for the Open, so if you want to be part of it watch the magazine for information.

The next golf is the Autumn Tournament at Hurlston Hall GC on Tuesday September 14. Lunch 12 – 12:30. Tee time 12:50pm – 2:20pm. All applications to be received by Thursday September 9 including a cheque for £20 payable to BIGGA N/W Section. Applications to Bert Cross, Harthill Lodge, Harthill RD, Liverpool, L18 3HU.

You will have received a Regional Training Booking Form in the July Magazine and on November 25 - 26 at Dunham Forest GC there is a course headed 'Next Steps in Management Skills'. If you are interested please complete the form and return it to Sami Collins at BIGGA HOUSE as soon as possible. That's it for now, but you can contact me on 0151 724 5412 or 07761 583387 Bert Cross

Sheffield

Hello again to all. This month I have a brief report of the day's events at Sickleholme GC, who very kindly allowed the Section to hold our summer tournament at their lovely course. Congratulations to Mike Lake and his team for presenting the course in such excellent condition, I'm only sorry I was not able to attend myself.

Main sponsor for the day was once again Mansfield Sand, thanks go to Dave Smith and Russ Lathom for their excellent prize table and their continued support of the Section. Thanks also to all the other members of the trade who make these occasions so memorable.

Prize winners on the day were as follows; Best Gross. D.Womack 78 –7 -71; Best Net. 1. J. France, 65-24 –89; 2. J. Hobson, 68 –24 –92; 3. A. Bunting, 69 –16 –85.

Peter Fell won the trade prize with 68 –12- 80. Nearest the Pin was also won by a trade member, well done to Mike Brear.

The Chairman Gordon Brammah gave thanks to the Club Captain Peter Blower and President Brian O`Conner in the usual way by presenting them with a BIGGA tie for their representation of Sickleholme GC on the day.

Just a reminder that the autumn competition, to be held at Gainsborough on September 6, is an earlier start at 12.00pm.

Don't forget I can be reached on 01427 614175 or 07904 121690 or e-mail geoff@wellsy1.freeserve.co.uk. Geoff Wellsy



BB&O

Summer at last! As irrigation systems get fired up and start to work overtime, I sit in my white van on the M25 with the traffic gridlocked and temperatures soaring higher and higher. Air conditioning in my cab only comes to life at 100 mph with all windows down.

Looking on the bright side, I am shedding a few pounds and people pay good money for a sauna. Growing tomatoes in my cab might still be an option.

Chiltern Forrest GC, or otherwise known as The Himalayas for the wonderful undulating ups and downs of the course, was the venue for The John Deere Classic Qualifier held on July 5 under the organised guidance of Turner Groundcare.

Wychwood GC recorded a score of 18 under nett 52 which was good enough to secure first. Taking second, with a score of nett 56 jointly on count back, was Frilford Heath, of Cotswold Hills GC.

Thank you to Chiltern Forrest GC and Steve Horwood and his staff for every effort in ensuring that all had a great day out. Forrest Pines GC in Lincolnshire is the venue for the next stage and we wish the qualifiers the best of luck.

Mathew Smith from Dudsbury GC in Hampshire is the new Course Manager at Sonning GC, and racing post editor and horse tipster in the making. Steve Cherry, from Abbey Hill GC, is the new Head Greenkeeper at Silverstone GC.

On the move is James Ferrar, from Gerrads Cross GC, who has taken a challenging position as Course Manager in Kenya. After 18 months in prison - as a prison officer - David Griffith is returning to Greenkeeping and starts his new position as Deputy at The Buckingham GC. Also returning home to roost is Michael Ginger, from Harewood Downs GC, who takes on the Deputy's position at Hazelmere GC.

The BB&O's very own Barry Sheen, namely Carl Small, is having his foot fused and welded. This sounds extremely painful and after this operation not even the Bionic Man will have more metal to boast about. We wish Carl a speedy recovery back to work and back on the buggy at our golf days.

The next event is a Clay Pigeon Shooting Day open to all members. This is a first time social event for our Section and will be held sometime in October, details will be mailed shortly.

Our Annual General Meeting and Turkey Trot will be held at Donnington Grove GC - formerly Parasampia GC - on Thursday November 4.

Any member wishing to play a role on the BB&O committee please come forward as your help will always be appreciated. For more details, contact the Secretary, John Scoones, on 07880 550 380.

The London Section has arranged for a one day course covering **The Essential Elements to a Successful Career in Greenkeeping** and the members of our Section have been invited.

The venue is Porters Park GC in Herts on Wednesday October 2, and the cost will be £15 per person. Early booking is recommended as places are limited.

Please send your cheque, payable to BIGGA, to Peter Philips, 11 Anderson Road, Shenley, Radlett, Herts WD7 9EQ.

Mark Day mark@day.fm

Midland

To open this month's notes, I must apologise for the lack of notes in August. Such being due to the fact that I was unfortunately unaware of the E-mail address change at H.Q.

Communication is a wonderful thing! I send these notes from Reykjavik in Iceland. Surely I must have better things to do on my holiday. Perhaps not, a small mortgage might just buy a bottle of decent red.

It gives me great pleasure to report the wonderful news that Steve Wenlock, North Worcester GC, and his fiancée Emma have had a baby boy, Joshua Kyle Wenlock. Let's hope he has his mother's looks and father's skills. Congratulations to all three of you. Looking forward to "wetting the baby's head" Steve.

It also gives me great pleasure to welcome eight new members to our Section this month: Malcolm Mitchell, David Pearce, David Cole, Christopher Baugh, Mick May, John Spear, James Stokes and Jonathan Holmes - a descendant of Sherlock "I



presume". Also, congratulations and good luck to the new Course Manger at Walsall Golf Club, Dave Coomes.

Our Summer Tournament was held at Moor Hall GC. Unfortunately I was unable to attend. However, my spies reported that the course was in excellent condition, and a fantastic day was enjoyed by all. Thanks and respect is more than due to Wayne Ganning and his fine team for presenting the course in such great condition, and of cause thanks to More Hall GC for graciously affording such a sumptuous opportunity.

The results of the day were; Best Gross. A.Walker; Nett. 1. D.Ganning; 2. D.Gibbons; 3. D.Fellows; 4. A.Walker. Thanks to our old friends at Amenity Technology for the main prize table.

Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive was kindly sponsored by W.W.B. Minerals, and won by A.Kite and M.Cutler respectively. Looking at the above results I wonder whether Mr.D.Ganning M.B.E. had any input as to the pin positions?

As I'm sure you've been waiting with baited breath, our Angling event is organised for October 31, as kindly organised and sponsored by Hanson Aggregates/Allen Southam. To book your peg please call me on: 07816 410 552. Let's see if we can't beat Middleton Hall Anglers this time. With all the rain we've had the fishing should be good. Looking forward to Mrs Southam's trifle.

I, in the past, have had the pleasure of our President's, as I'm sure you're aware Peter Richmond, lovely wife's company. A most wonderful lady, unfortunately Bryda has spent some unscheduled time in hospital. All of the Midland Section would like to wish you a speedy recovery Bryda. Lwc wda hogan.

Finally to close, my Scotts partner and I had the ominous task of playing Terry Cheese and Phil Nixon. How on earth is one to out play against eagles with drives of 330 yrds. I must confess that my partner drove the ball superbly, however within the shorter game we where given a right royal lesson. Well played gentlemen, and what gentlemen. Good luck to all left in this wonderful competition. You never know I might get further than the first game next year and stand a chance of playing Wentworth. Good luck to all left in the event.

Due to the mix up with the August notes, telephone entries shall be accepted this once (Gary: 07876 693 269 by September 13) for our Autumn Tournament at Hawkstone Park GC, on September 22, 10:30am start. The AGM is to be held after the golf at 5:00pm. Anyone wishing for a specific question to be answered at the AGM should give notice in writing by return post after receiving this notification, thus giving the Committee a chance to deliberate. Cheers for now, see you at the golf, AGM, or the fishing.

Sean McDade.

Mid Anglia

Welcome to the Mid Anglia Section. From this issue Steve Mason has handed the pen to me, Bob Butfoy, to report our news, as he is to become the newly appointed Course Manager of Stocks Golf Club. I think I speak on behalf of everyone from the Section when I wish Steve ALL THE BEST for the future.

The Summer Tournament was held at Mount Pleasant Golf Club, where 22 players took on a tough 18 holes. The course was in excellent condition so big thanks to Steve Mason & his team for doing us proud. The food & hospitality was also excellent, so again big thanks, this time to the Simkins family.

The day was sponsored by Boughton Turf Management, who provided some great prizes, all presented by Simon Headley, our thanks to them also.

The results were as follows:

1. John Chapman & John O'Gaunt; 2. Bob Butfoy & Heydon Grange; 3. Geoff James & John O'Gaunt. Nearest the Pin. Clive Parnell, Gem; Longest Drive. Richard Goddard, Ashridge; Trade Prize. Steve Crossdale, Headlands.

Our next event is the autumn AGM at Woburn on October 27. The price for this day is £30 for ALL entries, get in quick as this will be busy.

IMPORTANT: Reminders are that the Marquis course is soft spikes only, and that this event is a two tee start from 9.30am. You'll need to arrive in good time as if you are drawn to start from the 10th tee it is a 15 min drive!

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East

June 23 saw about 20 brave souls venture out in the good old British summer for the Lincs Green Golf Day at South Kyme. Everyone cast aside shorts and t-shirts for waterproofs and umbrellas as torrential rain fell for most of the day. Some of the field only completed nine holes and the ones with no brains completed the full 18.

The whole day was sponsored by Phil Wilkinson, of Lincs Green, with some excellent glass wear as prizes and a very impressive buffet lunch was also paid for by Phil. Many thanks go to Phil and South Kyme Golf Club for holding the event.

The results were; Best Gross. Rob Welford. Second Class. Ian Batty. Best Nett. Russ Moody. Second Nett. Graeme MacDonald. Longest Drive. Rob Welford. Nearest the Pin. Tim Jones.

The next golf outing was held at Lincoln Golf Club (Torksey) on July 22. The prizes for the day were sponsored by LMS. The format for the day was four man Texas scramble. The day was held to celebrate the retirement of Derek Blades as Head Greenkeeper from Lincoln Golf Club and several members from the club joined with the greenkeepers to make the day more enjoyable.

Many thanks go to Lincoln Golf Club, the members and LMS for a good day. It was also nice to meet Rachael Palmer from BIGGA HQ and thanks go to her for helping get everyone started on time and helping out through the day. Best wishes go to Derek and we shall hope he has a long and happy retirement.

The results were 1. S. Clayton, G. Gilding, J. Heswon & J. Day, 58.5 on back nine; 2. N. Lister, S. Haywood, D. Hampshire & R. Moody, 58.5; 3. P.Fell, S. Beverly, A. Tonge & D. Tonge, 59.2. Longest Drive. G. Gilding. Nearest the Pin. S. Dickinson. Les Howkins

SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES

Devon & Cornwall

It is unfortunate that my first report for the Magazine should start on a sad note, to report the sad loss of one of our Greenkeepers. John Gawman recently past away at the age of 47. John began his Greenkeeping career when he left school at the age of 15, and joined Tavistock Golf Club with his friend, Mike. Having worked at Tavistock for 17 years, he departed for pastures new and joined the well known Jack Nicklaus course, at St Mellion, Saltash, where he eventfully became Head Greenkeeper of the old course, or Foreman in American Golf terms.

The funeral was at his local church in Horrabridge near Tavistock, and was overflowing with Greenkeepers and Trade Representatives from throughout the South West. Our sympathy goes to his widow and family.

The Mid-Summer BIGGA meeting was held at the Launceston Golf Club in Cornwall in almost tropical conditions, and sponsored very generously by Martin Ward of Symbio. There was an excellent attendance as always, and the prizes were very generous, including prizes for the Longest Drive, and Nearest the Pin on a par 3.

The competition was a Stableford format, and won by Adam Bridgewater, with 36 points, Adam also won the Longest Drive. Second was Paul Bullen with 31 points, who also won the Nearest the Pin, Paul has recently retired from Newquay Golf Club as Head Greenkeeper. The third prize went to Howard Meadows also with 31 points, however Paul had a better score on the back nine holes.

We would like to welcome Graeme Gallimore to our Section, who has just become the new Head Greenkeeper at Launceston Golf Club, having worked at the Warwickshire Golf Club and more recently at the Benton Hall Golf Club in Essex.

Graeme is married to Louise and has a two year son called Asher, who is obviously following in his fathers footsteps, as he seems to be spending rather a long time in the bunkers.

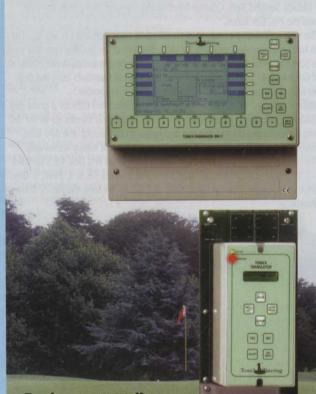
Congratulations to Jonathan Bullen, the Head Greenkeeper at the Staddon Heights Golf Club near Plymouth, who has just become married to Julie, we all wish them many years of health and happiness.

Congratulations also go the Devon County Team who recently played at the Trevose Golf Course and became the EGU County Champions for the South West, the Team now go forward to represent the South West in the National Finals. The main reason for reporting this is because the Devon Team is well represented by three of our Greenkeepers, Adam Bridgewater, from Yelverton GC, Paul

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Newcombe, East Devon GC, and Alan Gawman, from the St Mellion GC, Alan, the son of the late John Gawman.

Last but not least I would, on behalf of the Section, like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Steve Evans, and his daughter Alison, for his work and his total commitment as secretary over the past year, never an easy task to follow our previous secretary Richard Whyman, if I do as half as well I will be delighted. Donovan O.Hunt



London

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Essex

July 28 saw the Essex area qualifying for the John Deere Team Championship. 20 teams of four – including the club professional – entered, with 19 under par being the winning score, which included a hole-in-one.

The day was sponsored by our local John Deere Dealers, P. Tuckwell Ltd. Our thanks goes to James Tuckwell, Neil – the Aussie – Peachey and the rest of the Tuckwell team for organising the day.

Channels GC was the venue this time around and for some of us it was our second visit of the season – the first back in April. The course was in superb condition once again thanks to Ray Clark and his staff.

Team Positions; 1. Three Rivers GC, Craig Lawrence, Arnold Phipps-Jones, Terry Peachey & Fernando Teixeira, 19 under par; 2. Regiment Way, Ian Sinclair, Malcolm Smith, Simon Larner & Roger Ramphilon, 18 under par - count back; 3. Maldon

GC, John Edgington, Steve Blackwell, Rob Halland & Dave Kelly, 18 under par. Nearest the Pin. Phil Wilson, Bentley GC. Longest Drive. Owen Scott Reid, Saffron Walden GC.

Hope to see more teams enter next year and the best of luck to Arnold, our chairman, and his winning team in the National Finals.

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Surrey

The rain on my conservatory roof sounds like a stampede of wildebeest being chased by a pack of hungry lions. It is Thursday August 5 and I am also on the phone to Ron Christie, who is in his sheds at Addington Palace.

Ron complains that this localised storm has missed his course by inches and as he is only about 25 minutes from Banstead he feels that even the Gods are against him getting his due level of rain.

This has been how the weather has affected most of my customers; their normally cheerful faces are now pinched and sunburnt and only those who lead a life of chastity, modesty and sobriety have been blessed with glorious rain. Being one of the few, my newly seeded lawn is growing a treat.

The Surrey Bowl Knockout pairs competition is moving on rapidly and to date remaining pairs are Darren Woodward and Simon Kirkham, Adie Locke and Dave Murdoch, Ian Sellers and Lee Stutt and, last but not least, Brian Turner and John Mathis.

Yours truly and Mark Harvey, from Epsom, had the pleasure of playing our last round at Sunningdale GC against Brian Turner and John – when a child is born – Mathis. Brian kindly let us play on the old course from the back tees that were used the day before in the Ladies Weetabix Open Championship.

What wonderful golfers they must be for some of the carries are very long and even I had a few difficulties. Brian and John's five birdies in a row helped a little in their victory over us, which Mark and I put down mainly to luck and local knowledge.

The MacMillan Tankard competition on the new course at Sunningdale is on August 12, so results will appear in the October edition. Brian Willmott

Kent

It would appear that to comply with the BIGGA constitution we have to have an extraordinary General Meeting to reform the Kent Section, as at the last meeting the Section was officially disbanded.

It is planned to have a tournament sometime during late November/early December, followed be a meeting to do the necessary and form a new committee. All members will be informed of the venue and date in due course.

Any members interested in helping out and would like details of what is involved, please call me on 07970 789708 during office hours.

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NORTHERN IRELAND

Firstly this month I would like to give a big thank you to all the greenkeepers who helped out at the British Seniors Open in July at Roya Portrush during the final two days of the tournament.

Their commitment, enthusiasm and reliability was very much appreciated. Course Manager, Joe Findley, and his staff had worked very hard to get the course in great shape, under very difficult conditions regarding dry spring weather extending into June, alongside an unbelievable amount of play on the course prior to the Championship.

August 6 was the date for the annual Terry Crawford Charity Golf Day at Clandeboye Golf Club with over 120 greenkeepers, trade members and club members competing.

Terry is the Course Manager at Clandeboye GC and has been raising money for the Children's Hospital within the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast now for seven years. This year another fantastic sum of £2,600 was raised, which will be used to buy heart monitoring equipment for the Children's Wards.

Terry would like to thank Horta Soils and Irwin Sands for their generous sponsorship of the prizes, and especially Clandeboye GC for once again making the Dufferin course available for the charity event.

Terry and the greenkeeping team had the course in magnificent condition while the greens were really in superb order and a pleasure to putt on.

The winner of the event was Gary Crawford, a young greenkeeper from Royal Co Down GC, with 42pts. The gross prize was won by Dale Barker, from Down Patrick GC, playing off +2 with a round of 66 gross, four under par.

Results were; 1. Gary Crawford, R.C.D., 42 pts; 2. Paul Hamilton, Clandeboye GC, 42pts; 3. Aaron Small, Clandeboye GC, 41pts; 4. Sam Napier, Clandeboye GC, 40pts; 5. Irwin Robinson, Bangor GC, 39pts. Longest Drive. Jeff Lamb, Shandon Park GC. Nearest the Pin. Jo Dargan, Shandon Park GC.

The team prize was won by Clandeboye, Jim Millar, Ivan Boyd, Ronnie Gibson & Paul Hamilton, with a score of 113 points - best three cards.

Our next Section event will be our National Championship qualifying competition, to be held at Malone Golf Club on September 16. Two successful competitors will represent the Northern Ireland Section at the National Championship to be held at Alwoodley Golf Club, Leeds, on October 4 & 5.

Every member will receive a letter detailing the competition at the beginning of September. Well that is all my news for this month folks. **Ken Henderson**

Your Letters...

A Once in a Lifetime Experience

Thought that I'd drop you a line to say thanks to you all at HQ for your sterling work in organising this year's Open Greenkeeping Support Team for Royal Troon.

It was my first Open for a few years and I can appreciate the amount of time and effort which needs to be committed in order for things to run as smoothly as they did once again this year. I realise that the team, including Peter Boyd and Bert Cross are well versed with such events, but nevertheless their input and commitment is outstanding and they deserve credit for it, as does the BIGGA HQ team.

It was great to return to the Team and to renew acquaintances and to make some new friendships. To be a part of this event is indeed a privilege and I would recommend to every greenkeeper out there that they should try it at least once.

A fantastic event again this year, I'm so glad that I was a part of it. Having already been to St Andrews I doubt I shall be there next year as I will leave the door open for somebody else to experience first hand the enjoyment that one can gain from being a part of this Open Greenkeeping Support Team.

Perhaps I shall renew friendships once again at Hoylake in 2006 if not before. Thank you for the opportunity and thanks for the memories. Peter Laceu

Pennard Golf Club

PS. Has anyone found that bloody bunker rake yet?

A Big Thank You

I wish to express my thanks to BIGGA and all the greenkeeping support team for the help you all gave to the greenstaff at Royal Troon. The success of the Championship takes many groups of people working well together and the help that we received from yourselves contributed to making this year's Open a success.

William McLachlan, Course Manager, Royal Troon Golf Club

YOUR LETTERS ARE REQUESTED!

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

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A RED LETTER DAY **EXPERIENCE**

Because we had a such a good repsonse to our prize last month, we're going to offer you another chance to win a Red Letter Day 'Blue Voucher'. Go On! You know you want to!

Entry is simple! Listed below are a series of clues relating to ONE company featured in the ever popular Buyers' Guide. Take care to look through all the products and services shown and write down the name of the company which you think the following clues refer to:

WHO ARE WE?

1. Offer Finance for Course Improvements.

2. Offer Finance for replacement Machinery.

3. Telephone number contains 890.

Write down your name, address and answer on a postcard and send your entries to:

Turftime Teaser, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF. Entries to arrive no later than September 20th 2004

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

The solution to the August Turftime Teaser was Banks Amenity Products Limited.













