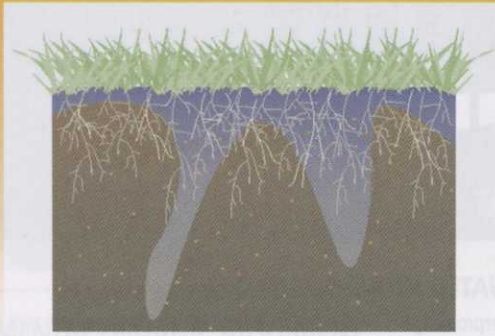
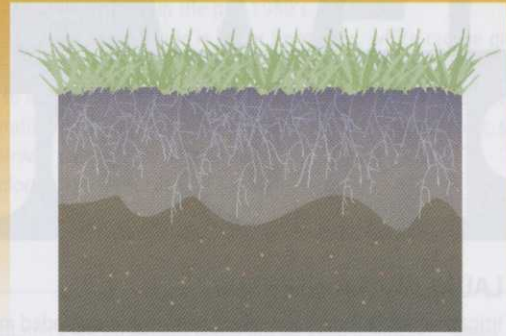


## WATER FLOW BEFORE



## WATER FLOW AFTER



### 4. Shade

Plants need sufficient light to promote healthy growth. Where grass is shaded by trees, hedges and other obstructions, vigour may be reduced and grass becomes prone to disease attack. Where possible, excessive shade should be controlled by pruning.

### 5. Water

As in humans, water is arguably the most essential part of the equation when it comes to turf survival. Your turf can survive longer without proper nutrition and optimum environmental conditions than it can without access to water.

The physical structure of the turf plant is comprised of 75 - 85% water, and adequate levels are needed to be maintained for basic metabolic functions, tissue formation, cooling, and food manufacturing to continue. It also acts as the transport system through which the turf takes up nutrients and 'medicines' through its roots and carries it through the plant.

Turf loses the greatest amount of water under stressful conditions such as high light intensity, high temperature, low atmospheric water vapor content, and windy conditions. To make sure that your turf is getting the water it needs to survive, especially during these stress periods, it is recommended that a quality soil surfactant be used.

Surfactants have been proven to reduce fingered flow and other water related problems, such as dry patch, wet spots, and uneven wetting. They help to establish and maintain a 'matrix flow' - a consistent downward and lateral water movement pattern that ensures uniform movement of water and turf chemicals through the soil profile. This promotes healthy turfgrass since water and water soluble chemicals penetrate deeper into the rootzone, encouraging a deeper root structure for healthier, denser and more uniform turf surfaces.

With surfactants you can use less water overall and still maintain the levels needed in the soil, since little is lost to run-off, channelling or surface evaporation.

### THE 'MEDICINES'

If it is not in peak condition, turf becomes more susceptible to pests and diseases. For the treatment of diseases, pests and weeds in golf turf most greenkeepers will agree that, like it or not, the 'tonic' will often involve some form of chemical control.

### TREATMENT OF PESTS

There are four main pests that are the bane of the greenkeeper's life: worms, although beneficial in helping to aerate the subsoil, their casts cause problems particularly on greens; leatherjackets, the larval stage of the crane fly; the frit fly, particularly for newly-sown turf, and the infamous chafer grub. A new product for the control of chafer grubs is due to be launched in the UK during April.

Application of pesticides will usually be in the form of spraying affected areas, at rates and frequencies recommended by the manufacturers. Some products have tank-mix compatibility for treating two or more pests at the same time, reducing both labour involvement and chemical usage.



Chafer Grub

### TREATMENT OF DISEASES

Intensively managed turf is often more prone to attacks of turf disease. In many cases, development of disease problems can be attributed to cultural causes, i.e. a failure to provide optimum conditions for plant growth.

The long-term remedy will usually involve changes in the cultural techniques employed, e.g. by increasing scarification. In the short term however, the use of fungicides may prove necessary to halt the disease and protect the grass from further damage. Turf diseases are disorders that are usually caused by parasitic fungi invading plant tissues and robbing the grass of vital nutrients.

Alternatively, they can be caused by the indirect effects of fungi inhabiting the soil in the rootzone and altering the availability of water and nutrients to the grass, as in the case of the fairy ring fungi. In either case they present a problem to the greenkeeper, who needs to take some form of remedial action in order to restore the turf to full health.

*Thanks to Bayer Environmental Science, British Seed Houses and Supaturf Products for help in compiling this article.*



# NEW PRODUCTS

## TORO LAUNCHES RAINSENSOR

Toro Irrigation has launched a wireless version and upgraded models of its two wired RainSensor Series.

The RainSensor works in conjunction with an irrigation controller to automatically shut off water when it rains. The three models in the new, enlarged series will give golf, sport and landscaping users even greater control of their irrigation programmes.

Toro's first wireless RainSensor brings with it the flexibility to install the sensor in the most suitable operating location, and has a 100m line-of-sight transmission range to a receiver. The receiver features a user-friendly LCD for simple programming and an easy to read icon display. It is also fitted with a rain/freeze sensor. This shuts off irrigation if the temperature falls below a level that is pre-set by the user.

The two wired RainSensor models are fitted with a sensor that features the option to select either 'normally closed' or 'normally open' for compatibility with older controllers. This ensures that irrigation still goes ahead, even in the unlikely event that the RainSensor fails.

Also included are four system shut-off points that can be adjusted to allow for different levels of rainfall depending on soil type. These units additionally come with an 8m pre-wired cable and a gutter- or eaves-mounted bracket for easy installation.

For further information Tel: 01480 226800.



## THE WATER STORAGE ANSWER

Waterproofing Services design and install a system that diverts rain from guttering and downpipes at golf courses to lakes that store the water until it is needed for irrigation. The created lakes then become an attractive and intrinsic part of the golf course, while also acting as a practical water store.

Clubhouses and outbuildings mean that most golf courses have a massive surface area of roofs. Rain that falls on these roofs normally just goes to ground and is wasted. This system makes full use of this important water by diverting and storing rain water, with the lakes being any size a club wants, from a few square metres to a whole football pitch.

With weather pundits predicting a hot summer and the Environment Agency's 'Water Resources Strategy' kicking in, golf courses are being urged to get their water recycling procedures in order, this system aims to help with this.

Waterproofing Services designs and installs lakes at golf clubs across the UK. Recent projects have included London & Hatfield Country Club, London Golf Club and Hanbury Manor.

For further information Tel: 07984 551374.



## A TURF TO WITHSTAND WEATHER EXTREMES

Available for the first time in the UK, Rhizomatous Tall Fescue Turf, produced by Tillers Turf, tolerates both drought and shade. It has a very deep and robust root system, enabling it to withstand the extremes of the weather.

This is the ideal turf to make a difference to areas of the course that suffer regularly from die-back due to drought and if you find it difficult to maintain grass cover on a shaded tee.

RTF, bred by Barenbrug, is a new generation of tall fescue, which is unlike other tall fescues produces rhizomes. The rhizome sends a shoot up to the soil surface while extending new roots downward, forming new plant growth. This rhizomatous growth habit produces high tensile strength, fast establishment of turf and rapid recovery.

RTF turf has excellent wear tolerance, similar to perennial ryegrass. It is shade, salt and frost tolerant and will withstand both water logging and drought conditions. It has consistent colour throughout the summer and winter and flourished in all soil types.

With a rooting depth capability of 1.5 metres RTF turf is a choice for soil stabilisation. With low water and nutrient requirements, coupled with rhizomatous recovery, it is ideal for use in environmentally sustainable situations.

The Turf is suitable for close mowing down to 12mm and has a low build up of thatch. The hard leaf of RTF turf encourages the ball to sit up making it ideal for golf course fairways and semi-roughs.

For further information Tel: 01652 678000.

## LATEST ROTADAIRON EQUIPMENT

The Rotadairon range of specialist soil renovators, stone buriers, de-thatchers and seeders for the amenity and sports sector has been expanded in recent months, including specialised turf de-thatchers and seeder units.

The soil renovators are available in several sizes and specifications for different requirements and tractor power ratings. When used in combination with a seeder unit, ground can be prepared and seeded in a single pass, which speeds up the process and avoids ground drying out between operations.

The machines incorporate a cutting rotor that spins against the direction of travel, minimising compaction and panning. Soil is screened and separated so that coarse material is covered by fine soil, producing a structure with good drainage and aeration that is easy for roots to penetrate.

For de-thatching work, Rotadairon offers the CR140 general-purpose model,



which can also be used with a seeder unit, and the ED130 model for fine turf, such as golf greens, where a high degree of accuracy is required. This machine has over 150 specially designed blades closely spaced on a 1.3 metre wide rotor, and working depth can be set very accurately. Blade-changing is particularly quick and easy. With the PTO disconnected, the ED130 can also be used as a slitter/aerator.

Rotadairon seeder units are available either to fit behind a soil

renovator, so ground can be prepared and seeded in a single pass, or as separate tractor-mounted units for use on already prepared ground.

For further information Tel: 01480 455151.





## NEW FM524

Showcased recently by Hayter was the latest version of the FM524. The Hayter FM524 fairway mower has undergone a number of developments since its introduction in the mid 1990's.

The main change is the new styling. Another change is larger front tyres, which reduce ground pressure and the risk of marking in difficult conditions. Features like hinged or removable panels, allowing easy access to all components for easy cleaning, maintenance and service have remained. The operating position, providing excellent visibility and comfort, so important for prolonged fairway cutting, has also remained exactly the same.

For more information Tel: 01279 723444.

## ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIC ABSORBENT

Sphag Sorb, the Environmental Organic Absorbent, supplied by Eco-spill.com, is an all natural product manufactured from sphagnum peat moss originating in the bogs of Canada and has been approved by the Environment Agency as a peat based oil absorbent.

Sprinkled on the oil spill as soon as it happens Sphag Sorb gets to work quickly, its powerful wicking action absorbs hydrocarbons and solvents, encapsulating these liquids on contact and because Sphag Sorb will not absorb water it can be used on wet grass.

Removal of the contaminated absorbent could not be easier. Simply brush as much as can be picked up and then mow the affected area collecting the absorbent into the grass box, any absorbent left on the grass will not harm the environment as the Sphag Sorb will, overtime, breakdown the captured oil before breaking down the Sphag Sorb which safely contains it.

Save the contaminated Sphag Sorb and after 90 days the bio remedial process should be complete and the Sphag Sorb can be safely disposed of back to the environment.

For further information Tel: 01934 514648.



## SMALL BUT POWERFUL

Claas has worked with Bartram Mowers, their specialist groundcare dealer for East Anglia, to create a specialist low profile mowing combination, using the new Nectis tractor range fitted with Ransomes MK 4 5/7 mowers.

A total of four Nectis models are available which, although they only have an overall cab height as low as 2.32 metres, depending on tyres, still pack quite a punch as power outputs from the naturally aspirated or turbo charged 3- and 4-cylinder engines range from 68hp up to 101hp.

In standard format, the Nectis comes with a 30kph mechanical 12 forward/12 reverse speed transmission, but it is recommended that for maximum output when using mowers such as the Ransomes, the tractor is better fitted with the optional twinshift and revershift 40kph transmission. This has a two-speed electro-hydraulic clutchless splitter within each mechanical gear, giving a total of 24 forward and 12 reverse speeds, plus a clutchless reverser, to avoid repeated use of the clutch.

Both two- and four-wheel drive models are available. On four-wheel drive versions, drive to the front axle is engaged using a rocker switch on the dashboard and they have the facility to be used in automatic or permanent modes. In automatic, four-wheel drive is disengaged above 14kph and re-activated below this speed, and will also be engaged when the engine is switched off, when the brakes are applied or when the differential lock is used. In permanent drive remains engaged regardless of speed.



A wide range of agricultural or turf tyres are available and due to the cut-away design of the engine chassis, all two- or four-wheel drive models have a steering angle of 55 degrees and a minimum turning circle of just 3.45 metres.

For operations such as vertidrainage or slitting, the rear mechanically controlled three-point linkage has a maximum lift capacity of 3,138kg and allows both the draft sensitivity and speed of linkage drop to be adjusted. The Claas TCE six Electronic Linkage control is available as an option that uses dials to set the main draft, position and height settings, with a press button for raise, neutralise and to lower the linkage.

Nectis is fitted with a six-spline PTO with groundspeed, 540 and 540 ECO speeds gradually engaged using a hydraulically assisted clutch to avoid overload.

As standard, the Nectis range comes with a two-pump hydraulic system, with a 48 l/min pump serving the braking, hydraulics and spool valve systems, while the second 27 l/min pump serves the steering and clutch systems.

The cab on the Nectis has an extremely low transmission tunnel, which is only 14cm high. The cab is ISO mounted to eliminate vibration and is

fitted with a pneumatic seat. The dashboard incorporates an LCD display, which in addition to a constant readout of forward speed, can also provide information on the total or temporary working hours, a clock or the rear PTO speed.

For Further information Tel: 01284 763100.



## KIOTI EXPAND RANGE

The latest models to join the Kioti range of compact tractors have been unveiled by their UK distributor, Rustons Engineering. There are now seven engine sizes in the range with a choice of specifications and attachments.

Designed specifically for the amenity market, the new models have 25hp or 30hp three-cylinder engines and are fully EU homologated. They are available with hydrostatic transmission or a manual gearbox with eight forward and eight reverse gears, including synchromesh forward/reverse shuttle. Hydrostatic power steering is standard, and options include a second double acting spool valve and mid-PTO.

The lifting capacity of the three-point hitch is 800kg. A front hitch, backhoes and front-end loaders with a quick fit attachment system are available as optional equipment.

The tractors are built in South Korea by Daedong and this modern plant, near Seoul, meets ISO9001 quality management standards and ISO 14001 environmental management standards.

For further information Tel: 01480 455151.





# News from the Chief Executive

Congratulations to Rachael (Membership) and her husband Stuart on the safe arrival of their son Adam. Rachael is now on Maternity Leave and in the meanwhile Gemma is looking after the Membership Office with help from our other Rachael (Reception), Sarah (my PA) and others as time allows.

A 'Well done' must also go to Stephen (Accounts) who, not only recently passed another module in the final stage of his accountancy exams, but also managed to win a shiny new Peugeot 206 in a competition run by the local radio station. I have banned him from taking over the office lottery syndicate since as a non-member I cannot afford for them to scoop a jackpot and leave me on my own!

Staff wise we are still under Establishment as they say in the golf club world. We have a vacancy in our Sales Office for someone to sell the classified advertising, a situation that originally arose some while ago with the departure of Cheryl, who emigrated to Australia. Until recently the position has been covered by temporary staff from an agency, however that has now come to an end due to the incumbent's personal situation. The scenic but somewhat isolated location of BIGGA HQ often works against us when recruiting which, together with very low unemployment locally, results in a shortage of suitable candidates. Things have not been made any easier by a bout of illness that has moved through the office.

There appears to be continued confusion and concern over the Recommended Salaries and Conditions of Employment for Greenkeepers as published by the current Committee. I would firstly point out that the BIGGA Pay Rates have not existed since 1997 and members and their employers should refrain from using this terminology as it only adds to the confusion. Historically it was always felt inappropriate that greenkeepers (through BIGGA) should determine their own remuneration recommendations and so a totally independent Committee was formed comprising representatives from golf club owners, golf club secretaries, the R&A and greenkeeping (again through BIGGA).

The Committee, which meets twice a year, established a completely new scale based on a survey and research and for the first time also linked remuneration to qualifications. This scale has been reviewed annually and is adjusted in line with the Average Earnings Index, this is an official government index and is Great Britain's key indicator of how fast earnings are growing. In using this index the Standing Committee ensures that the recommended scale for greenkeepers does not fall out of sync with the rest of industry.

I would comment that the scale is only a recommendation and employers can choose to either be guided by it or ignore it. For ease of administration, queries are normally routed through BIGGA Headquarters but I would stress that this is only to try to provide a quick response and NOT because BIGGA controls the Committee. A booklet containing the scales for 2005 may be obtained free of charge by contacting BIGGA Headquarters.

While on the subject of confusion may I take the opportunity to clarify the scope of and access to the Member's Legal Helpline. This is a 24hour/365 days of the year service to BIGGA subscribers and is for the use of and benefit of members and ANY of their family living in their household. The service is operated by a specialist company and is manned by suitably qualified staff who, in most cases, will be able to give you instant advice but who may on occasions need to ring you back with an answer. The person answering the call cannot be expected to know every point of law!

Advice can be sought on any legal matter and is not restricted just to employment. If any insured person has been wrongfully dismissed from their employment then the company will, at the company's discretion, pursue a claim through the appropriate channels at no cost to the individual.

The service is operated through a free-phone number that is 0800 068 1893. If you, or your family, are unfortunate enough to have need to use this facility and feel that it does not provide the level of service that you expected then please inform a member of Headquarters staff as soon as possible. My only additional comment is that you will be advised on 'What the law says' and this might not always coincide with your own feelings on the matter.

As the days and the grass grow longer I wish you all a successful season and hope that neither you nor your course is put under stress that you cannot cope with. Headquarters' staff are always on hand to help where they can, please do not hesitate to contact someone if you feel the need - full details can be found inside the front cover of this magazine.

John Pemberton

## SECTION NOTES INFORMATION

In order to improve the sending and receiving of Section Notes, where possible can all future notes be emailed to [gareth@bigga.co.uk](mailto:gareth@bigga.co.uk) by no later than the 5th of the month prior to publication please.

You will receive an email back to confirm receipt of your notes. If you do not receive this confirmation please get in touch with BIGGA Headquarters.

### SCOTTISH REGION

#### Ayrshire

Hello all! I hope you've had a good off season and managed to get your courses repaired for the upcoming season. Although I was away for a few weeks the weather seems to have been pretty decent this past winter. At the time of writing however its maybe been a bit too good, with the past few weeks staying quite dry.

Three new members have joined us and they are Russell Adams, Lamlash GC, Paul Smith, Lochmaben GC and Michael Byrne, West Kilbride GC. Mick began his career at West Kilbride and returns with experience gained from Wentworth and Turnberry. So, well done to Mr Paton on his dealings in the transfer window. I'm sure Mick won't miss the commuting distance from Saltcoats!

Other members on the move include Alistair Storrie, to Beith GC from Largs GC, and John Mair, who continues his missionary work in the west by joining Hamilton GC from Bellshill GC. Keep spreading the word Johnny Boy! John's brethren in Ayrshire would like to wish him all the best as he begins his journey into matrimony on April 30.

The Scottish National Conference, in Dunfermline, was a success once again with over a 100 in attendance. It was reported however that a couple of Ayrshire delegates may have dispersed a little early, so an inquiry will be conducted and any sanctions meted out in due course.

Okay, the football match verses the west is now set to be played in the latter half of April. Anyone interested can get in touch with Marshall, at Beith, or myself on 07939 104701.

Wait! There's still more, with the spring outing, which is to be played over the Kintyre Course at Turnberry, on Tuesday April 12. The day starts with coffee and a bacon roll on arrival followed by golf and an evening meal at only £20. Tee time is reserved from 1.30pm.

As some of you know I was lucky enough to travel to Florida with the Bernhard's Delegation. One night while sitting in the local watering hole I happened to get talking to a greenkeeper from Aspen, Colorado, who after hearing that I worked in Scotland stated that his club were going to make their course more Scottish in nature. Intrigued at this I inquired how would this be achieved? To which he replied: "By raking the bunkers just twice a week!"

Denis Tweddell

#### Central

We begin this month's news by sending our heartiest congratulations to Section Committee member, Ian MacMillan, Course Manager at Murrayshall Hotel and Golf Courses, on his achievement in becoming a qualified Fellow of the Society of Specialist Paralegals. Ian set out to gain this degree in order that he could be of assistance to fellow greenkeepers who are having difficulties in their employment.



What makes his achievement more remarkable is that he gained his degree six months within his allotted time and that out of a class of 38 sitting the exams he was the only person who was not practising law as a profession. Well done Ian!

Another two new members join us this month and they are Craig Hempseed, who is an apprentice at Aberdour Golf Club, and Stuart Muir, a greenkeeper on the Eden course at St. Andrews Links, as always we extend a warm welcome to them from everyone in the Section and hope to see them at some of our future events.

Along with the entry forms for the Spring Tournament at Elie, on April 27, you will receive a list of the educational programme that is available to you and the number of delegates required to hold the course. If you are interested in attending any one of them please return the form to me and we will endeavour to organise them on your behalf. The courses are there, we just need your support!

Personally I would like to thank everyone who has sent their best wishes to Ailsa during the past few weeks, it is very much appreciated by us both, thanks again.

John Crawford

## East

Well we're back after an absence of a few months and it's now down to business, so here goes. Since I last wrote in this column we have had a few changes on the Committee and they are as follows: The Committee now reads: Chairman, G. Wood; Vice Chairman, Stuart Greenwood; Past Chairman, Chris Yeaman; Secretary, S. Dixon; and messrs F. Forrest, I. Watson, I. Bell, J. Neilson and K. Hodges. So I would like to wish Graham all the best for the next two years and Stuart for his two years as Vice Chairman.

I would also like to welcome Ian Bell back to the Committee after a few years away and Kevin Hodges, Longniddry GC, who has joined the Committee, so welcome and we hope you enjoy your time with us. I would like to thank the Section and all the members for allowing my time as Chairman over the last years and I look forward to continuing on the Committee for the considerable future, so thanks to you all.

There are a number of people on the move at the moment. Firstly, Mark Barrie has left Ratho Park GC to become First Assistant at Gogarburn GC and Paul Armour has left Dora GC (Fife) to become an Assistant at Ratho Park GC. Also Danny Murray, son of Tom Murray, Ratho Park GC, is moving from Archerfield Links GC to the USA to Pinehurst Golf Resort on a year placement in association with Ohio State University. This may be longer but initially it is for one year.

He will be working on Pinehurst's number eight course, but will be also doing some work on course number two in the run up to the US Open, being held there in June this year. Danny flew out on this opportunity of a lifetime on March 21 and we would all like to wish him all the best on this amazing trip.

I believe Robert Hogarth, Cardrona G&CC, has been in hospital having an operation on his damaged ankle and we all hope it has been a success, Robert, and we wish you a speedy recovery and hope to see you out on the course very soon.

I hope anyone who attended BTME 2005 had a great time, as once again everyone at HQ did a superb job and gave us a Show to be proud of. Every year it just keeps getting better and better. I know the two East Section Patron Awards Winners, Steve Dixon and Kenny Mail, had a great time and hopefully they will write an article for the magazine very soon, so come on lads we're waiting! So roll on BTME 2006 and another great Show, workshops, etc, well done to everyone concerned, and it was good to meet up with old friends and new!

There are a few dates for your diary, they are the Spring Tournament, at Royal Musselburgh GC, where we haven't been for a while, on April 20, and you should have received your entry form by now, so get them back ASAP with the correct entry fee. You'll notice different entry fee categories this year, as no late entries after the closing date will be accepted and that's final!

The Annual Dance has been booked for Saturday December 3, at the Kilspindie House Hotel, Aberlady, for another great night as it was last December. So if you haven't been before get yourself along for a good night out as there is room for a few more for the social event to finish of the year.

Frank Forrest has put together a Section questionnaire, so please take some time, fill it in and send it back, as the Committee want to find out what the membership of the Section want, so we can put on events that you all want, i.e. golf, social, education. So fill it out and lets get this Section working, because it's your Section and this is your opportunity to tell us what you want.

The Autumn Tournament will be at Bruntsfield links GC, in September, and the date will be announced shortly. The Willie Woods Invitational returns this year, hopefully in August, with the venue to be announced later. Lets see a big turnout at all these events please!

If anyone has any news or views please get in contact, as I would like to hear from you and we will get it into this column throughout the year! The contact numbers and address are: Chris Yeaman, Westwyn, West Linton Golf Club, West Linton, Peeblesshire, EH47 7HN. Phone: office 01968 661721; home 01968 661313; mobile 07719 580449.

So come on, lets hear from you! I'm waiting by the letterbox and the phone. Well that's it for this month and apologies for being away for a while but normal service is now resumed and I look forward to next month with news and views around the Section.

See you then.

Chris Yeaman

## North

There are quite a few new members to report this month. Michael Thomson, Assistant Greenkeeper at Longside GC; David Nicolson, Greenkeeper at Old Meldrum GC; Andrew Stables, Greenkeeper at Forres GC; Joanne O'Neil, Apprentice Greenkeeper at Newmachar GC; David Merchant, Apprentice Greenkeeper at Kings Links; Jordan Main, Apprentice Greenkeeper at Elgin GC; Brian Patterson, Apprentice Greenkeeper at Shetland GC; Scot Davidson, Apprentice Greenkeeper at Hazlehead GC. Our apologies to Scot as his membership was paid a few months back but did not come through to me to print.

Also a welcome back to the Section to Ross Macrae, formerly of Old Meldrum GC, who is now Assistant Greenkeeper at Newmachar GC. I hope all the new members enjoy their membership of the Association.

The Scottish Conference at Dunfermline was badly hit by the weather, with the roads difficult due to the snow. However 116 hardy souls were at the Conference and it is to their credit that they were able to get through. The Conference went well and our thanks go to Peter Boyd and the speakers.

The 200 club still has tickets left and if anyone is in possession of tickets and has no intention of renewing them could you please send them back to Hughie Mclatchie at 24 Whitehill Place, Peterhead, Aberdeenshire, AB42 2YF or please phone him on 01779 470173. The club is our main source of revenue so we need to sell as many tickets as possible.

The spring outing is at Murcar GC, on May 12, and we hope there is a good turnout. Hopefully the weather will take care of itself. The National Tournament will be at Mcdonald GC, Ellon, on June 23, and that is a date for your diary. Brian Anderson and John Geddes are the respective Course Managers so a good turnout would be greatly appreciated by these guys.

Our Secretary, Dale Robertson, has been in touch with Gareth at BIGGA HQ and we hope the draw will be put on the events page of the BIGGA website before the tournament, so try the website if you can access a computer.

A former member of our Section, Stuart Hogg, formerly of Fortrose GC and now of St Annes GC, in England, was presented with his Master Greenkeeper award at Harrogate this year. This is quite an achievement as a lot of work is required to get through the exam, so congratulations go to Stuart and his family. As Stuart is a growing lad he needed a bigger BIGGA blazer, allegedly.

As I write this report the snow is piling down again and our season has actually started, seems to be more snow showers in March these days than during the main winter months.

Iain Gunn



## NORTHERN REGION

### North East

Recently Hexham Golf Club has been the recipient of an award for good environmental practices. Hexham has worked towards this over the last two years in a scheme ran in conjunction between the EGU and STRI. Following inspections, the STRI were delighted with the work carried out.

Matfen Hall Golf Club have been granted planning permission for a 10 bay driving range, work has started and should be completed and ready between May and June, it will have a small eating and drinking area which will act as a Clubhouse for the par 3 course.

Please note that BIGGA card holders will not get balls for free, but on showing their cards will get a discount, this will be sorted out nearer the opening time.

They have also recently applied for planning permission for an extra nine holes, this will not be a third or weaker nine, but will link the existing 18 to make a 27 hole layout, approximately 3500yds, par 36, with the traditional two par 3's and the course has been designed in house by Course Manager, Craig Parkinson, and Head Professional, John Harrison, Craig will be the appointed Project Manager.

Just to let you know that they are looking for an Assistant Greenkeeper who has the necessary skills and been or is still going to college who will start work April/May. They are also looking to employ a further two staff in the year 2006, so if anyone is interested drop Craig a line. Just as a little temptation they are offering 95% of BIGGA rates, plus overtime and membership of the new leisure club.

A question from Craig, he wants to know if anyone in our Section has had their wash bays fitted with a grass filter/clean water system? He would be grateful for any information, he can be contacted on 01661 886586.

Our spring competition is at Ponteland GC, April 14, and the autumn competition is at Foxton Hall GC, September 29.

Jimmy Richardson

### North West

The main news this month in the Section has been the Mere Seminar, which took place on February 22. The seminar was a joint venture between the N/W and the N/Wales Sections. Every member of both Sections received an application form, 700 in all, and the seminar was attended by 75 people, which included the six speakers. This means that 10 percent of the membership attended which is about average for seminars.

We are lucky that our seminar was able to go ahead as the weather in some parts of the surrounding area was under snow and ice, making travel dodgy, but almost everybody made it. As you can all see from the application forms sent out, we had some great speakers covering the environmental issues, which the whole world is talking and worrying about.

I would like to thank all the speakers who gave us their time and expert advice, which made this a seminar worth attending. I mentioned the weather, and how the seasons are changing, in March we seemed to be getting the December weather, and now in April, with the Masters in Augusta shortly to be on TV, I wonder how long it will be before the members will be happy with our late to develop courses.

Upcoming events are as follows: North West v North Wales, Wilmslow GC, April 5; Spring Tournament, Whitefield GC, May 25; Summer Tournament, Childwall GC, July 27; Autumn Tournament, Prestbury GC, September 1;

# H<sub>2</sub>Pro Problem solved!

## How to reduce your irrigation needs and treat Dry Patch

Now there's a product which helps maintain efficient levels of irrigation yet conserves water, and it will deal with Dry Patch too. H2Pro is formulated with a new generation of wetting and spreading agents. Released over three different time spans - short, medium and long-term - it maximises prolonged water



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Whitelaw Bowl, Penrith GC, September 14; Presidents Day and AGM; Wilmslow GC, December 5.

That's it for now, any queries or suggestions ring 0151 724 5412 or 07761 583387.

Bert Cross

## Northern

Can I please remind you all that the Spring Tournament is being held at Northcliffe Golf Club on April 20. Teeing off commences at 10am. Please let me know if you wish to play and let me have a cheque to cover entrance fee at least one week before the day. Don't forget the fee is £17 for the entire day, which includes coffee and bacon bap on arrival, your golf and a three course meal. How's that for excellent value! As I mentioned last month, anybody who wishes to pay on the day will have to pay £20, so do make sure to get your cheques in as early as possible.

Hopefully next month I will be able to bring you the details of the summer barbecue, which we are hoping to arrange for the first time this year, and maybe also the result of the first five-a-side match between Moor Allerton GC and my boys at Otley. There is just the one problem, we at Otley haven't got five members of staff at the moment, but I'm confident that we can still win with four men!

I'm afraid that's about all I have to say this month, hopefully I'll see you at Northcliffe. If anyone has any news they would like to share with the Section, then please do get in touch, my details are as follows: 16a Hodgson Fold, Myers Lane, Bradford, BD2 4EB. Tel: 01274 638366 Mobile: 07739 319060

Adam Speight

## Sheffield

Firstly, I would, on behalf of the Section, like to thank Steve Pickering for his work on the Committee. Steve resigned last year and since that day he has become a bit of a celebrity. Recently on his stag do he decided to, or was forced to, have a go on a bucking bronco, he wasn't very successful as he fell off and slipped a disc.

Hope you are OK now Steve, by the way Dave Chappell says: "Ride them cowboy!" Then further more he has had his picture printed in the Greenkeeper Magazine with Dave. Fame at last Steve, all the best mate.

On Thursday February 3 we held one of our winter lectures, at Rotherham Golf Club. Our thanks go to Jonathon Hamer, of Farmura Ltd, for giving us a very interesting lecture on organics. Unfortunately there wasn't a great turn out which the Committee is in the process of addressing.

Well done to Chris Astle, our Section Secretary, who has just been promoted to Deputy Course Manager at Wheatley Golf Club, following the retirement of Neil Maltby. Good luck Chris.

Just a reminder that our first golf of the year is on May 10, at Bondhay Golf Club, with a tee off time of 10.30. We hope to have a big turn out from greenkeepers and trade alike, look forward to seeing you all there.

Once again if anyone has any news feel free to get in touch with me either by phone on 07793111845 or via email [jv.lax@tesco.net](mailto:jv.lax@tesco.net)

John Lax

## MIDLAND REGION

### East Midlands

The annual Go-Kart evening was held once again at The Wymeswold Industrial Estate on Wednesday February 16. The format for the evening consisted of four qualifying races for each competitor, with the top eight then contesting the final.

After several keenly contested races, 21 of the competitors were eliminated, leaving the rest to do battle in the Grand Final. This was won by Danny Brown, of Lingdale GC, with Adi Porter and Stuart Raybould, both of Greetham Valley,

finishing second and third respectively. Stuart Raybould won the fastest lap.

On behalf of the Section I would like to thank Toro/Lely and The Mowershop for sponsoring the evening and also a special thank you should go to every member who took part in supporting the evening.

Our golf fixtures for this year are as follows: Spring Tournament, Melton Mowbray, Wednesday May 18; Summer Tournament, Cosby, Thursday July 7; AGM, Norwood Park, Wednesday November 2; Christmas, Chamwood Forest, Thursday December 15. The spring and summer combined will be a National Tournament Qualifier.

The Committee do hope to see as many members as possible supporting these days. If you require an entry form please give me a ring or email me about a month before the competition, as no forms will be posted.

Anthony Bindley

## BB&O

Farewell to Happy Valley! Jack Evans will be taking some happy memories away with him when he leaves the Conway's Bridge Estate and Happy Valley after 34 years of taking care of what is probably the most under played golf course in the country, with no more than a couple of dozen rounds played on the course in the last ten years.

Ill health has forced Jack, 62, into retirement as ambitious plans have been announced to create a high quality country club and golfing complex on the Park Place Estate, giving a new lease of life to the 68 acres of golf course, woodland and boathouse.

During Jack's time at Henley on Thames he has rubbed shoulders with the rich and famous, with George Cole (Arthur Daly), Mary Hopkins, Comedian Charlie Drake and a host of international actors and footballers. In addition to this, Jack persuaded the artist John Piper to paint Conway's Bridge, and the painting now adorns the Mayor's parlour at Henley Town Hall. On one occasion when the estate was on the market, a red Mercedes with a number plate SC1 pulled up in the drive and out stepped Sean Connery, who joined Jack for a cuppa and a guided tour of Happy Valley. Unfortunately, the great actor decided the house was too small and not for him.

Jack has a very special memory of the time when a golfing superstar turned up to discuss redesigning the six hole course - Jack Nicklaus was standing by Conway's Bridge with a group of managers and Jack, with tongue in cheek, introduced himself and after talking to one of the greatest golfers in the world he was presented with a Happy Valley scorecard signed "To Jack from Jack".

Jack will be moving into a bungalow in Twyford and will have a lot more time on his hands and he is starting to think about what will keep him busy in his retirement. "I have been promising myself to take a golf lesson since 1963. Maybe now I will find time for it," he said. So if you're passing Twyford pop in and see Jack, he will be only too pleased to see you. From all the BB&O, we wish Jack the very best in his retirement.

Remember that your news and views are always welcome and if you require further information on Section events planned for 2005 contact the Secretary, John Scones, on 0788 550380. PS. It's just started snowing, welcome to spring!

Mark Day

## Mid Anglia

Welcome to the Mid Anglia Section news. There is not a lot to report this month. One important item is that the spring event this year will only be an 18 hole event and not a 36 as of previous years. Those of you who know Royston Golf Club will understand why, it has several "heart attack hills" and we didn't want to kill off the whole Section in one event!

The plan is for an afternoon round of golf, plus all the usual stuff, I believe that more information will be posted to our members with the entry forms. By the way, get your entry forms in early this year to make life easier for Richard.

That's about it, hopefully spring will have sprung by now and we'll all need a holiday soon!

Bob Butfoy





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**SCOTLAND & NORTHERN IRELAND**  
 Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440



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**NORTHERN & MIDLAND**  
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**SOUTH EAST**

The South East Region's annual Gentleman's Dinner was held at Walton Heath as the magazine was going to press. A full report will appear in May's issue of Greenkeeper International.

**Kent**

I don't suppose I'm going to be the only one mentioning the weather in this month's 'Around the Green' section but as I look out across the snowy landscape that used to be a golf course summer seems a far distant memory. Indeed, this very morning I went to one of the high points of my course where a number of winter sports enthusiasts had gathered. I said to one: "How's the snow for skiing?" "Dunno," he replied, "I'm a tobogganist." "Oh," I said, "Can I have 20 Bensons then!" The old ones are the best! I'm sure this scenario will soon be a gone and we'll all be rushed off our feet trying to cope with the arrival of spring and the associated flush of growth. Happy days!

On the subject of arrivals, many congratulations to my Deputy, Richard Burgess, and his wife, Helen, on the birth of their second son, Henry. Another new member to welcome this month is David Tomlin, from The London Club.

With the help of our many trade supporters, who shall all get plenty of publicity for their efforts throughout the year, we have been able to compile a full fixture list for the coming season. This will begin with an educational afternoon at Wildernesse Golf Club, in Sevenoaks. This will start at 2pm and include

seminars and a course walk. This is a great opportunity to learn at a great venue for golfers and non-golfers alike.

Our first golfing adventure will be hosted by Broome Park Golf Club, near Canterbury, on June 9. We then visit Southern Valley Golf Club, on September 29. Finally we shall return to Birchwood Park Golf Centre, on November 24, for the annual turkey trot and AGM. We shall be producing a printed fixture list for all members in due course, but at least now you all have a basic agenda for the year in Kent and can plan to be at as many occasions as possible.

Please remember, BIGGA golf days are not just open to Course Managers and other regulars. All greenkeepers, at all levels of work and golfing ability, are welcome to join us.

If you have any news or gossip for this column please contact me. Even if it's the result of your staff snowball fight! I can be contacted on 07843 410755 or by email at grassyars@hotmail.com.

Rob Holland

**Sussex**

Hello again. Believe it or not, with the weather being very mild, we have just been promised a couple of weeks of Siberian winds and for a change I think they might have got it right, as there is snow on the ground and biting winds. Roll on the summer!

I did put my email address in last month's magazine, roberthudson77@btinternet.com, just in case anyone had any news they would like me to include, and just to clarify this is not an agony aunt column! I did actually get some feedback from a member and I think it was in response to my dig at members that were not attending any golf days through the year.

All I can add is that the golf days consist of 18 holes with a meal, for a very

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reasonable cost. I know we used to have 27 or 36 hole days, but that has not been the case for quite a while. Also it has been stressed that we are maybe starting too early and not giving you guys enough time to prepare your courses and then travel to the event. If this is the case than we can try and put those guys at the back of the field, although we are now trying to get a later kick off anyway.

If you would like to attend a golf day here are the fixtures and dates: May 5, Pycombe GC, Qualifier for the National Tournament; July 14, Haywards Heath GC, Team Challenge; August 31, Dyke GC, Sussex v Surrey - hiss boo; September/October, yet to be arranged.

Just a little in reference to the Sussex v Surrey match. Not only is it at the Dyke, where the Fixtures Secretary is Course Manager, it is also his birthday. Not too much pressure to put on oneself at 50 is it. Let's hope his game lives up to it.

As you can see there is no set fixture for September/October, so if any one feels their club would kindly hold an event then, or for the forthcoming year please let me know. Please support your Section!

That's the lot for now, look forward to seeing you at the next golf day.

Rob Hudson

### East Anglia

Spring is here and I am sure everyone is flat out with their spring renovation. It has been a winter of mild weather for most of us with only a few course closures, and just a handful of days with temporary greens in use. The 'must play everyday member' has been happy throughout, so let us hope he shows some understanding as we tirelessly bring our courses round for the summer onslaught.

The Section's 2005 fixtures are now confirmed and the fixture cards are going to press as I write. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the first golf meeting of the year has had to be arranged later in Spring than normal, the meeting at Diss Golf Club is to be held on Tuesday May 17, the entry forms and fixture cards will be sent to all members of our Section shortly. If any member has any queries then Ian Willet, our Section Secretary, can be contacted on 01728 452759 and he will be pleased to deal with your call.

Congratulations must go to our Section Treasurer, Martin Mison, and his wife, Tracey, on the birth of their fourth child. Matthew weighing in at 91b 2oz, and was born on January 3.

Hope to see you all at Diss on May 17, for our qualifier of the BIGGA National Tournament. So for you serious golfers get some practice in, and for the rest of us it's time to locate our clubs - as they are most probably still in the same place that they were dumped in after our last meeting!

Steve Millard

### Essex

Well, thousands of apologies for not writing sooner, but I have no excuses. I could say the dog ate the article, I could say my children ruined the article, I could say I mowed over the article, but alas I have no excuse. Still I have been inundated with things to write about from you members... not!

Our last event of 2004 was a Texas scramble out at Orsett Golf Club. Don and the boys put on a great day and our thanks to them, the caterers and the staff of Orsett GC for allowing us to play and have a really enjoyable day. The winners were... slight problem, I cannot find the piece of paper that Dave Beale gave me and he cannot find his copy, but who ever did win well done!

Our thanks to Rigby Taylor, who sponsored the day and put up some terrific prizes. Also thanks to all our other sponsors that gave raffle prizes: Avoncrop, Scotts, Tuckwells, Ernest Doe, Collyer Turf, Banks Amenity, Vitax, CMW, Sherriffs, Tacit, Seoul Nassau, and anybody else!

The AGM was then held after a fine dinner. A complaint was heard that how disappointing it was that when the AGM was about to start many of the members who had been there for the golf disappeared. This is one complaint which I feel I totally agree with. If you did not attend the AGM do not moan about anything, it lasted just 15 minutes!

No change in offices other than Don Clark will now be organising the golf days. Our thanks to Dave Beal's effort and all his hard work over the last couple



**Jane Jones**  
SOUTH WEST AND WALES  
Tel: 01454 270850

of years and especially for the new scoring system. On behalf of the Section I would like to thank all our officers and sponsors for all the work and support they have given the Section during 2004.

Harrogate has been and gone, I did not get there myself, but I understand it was as good as ever. You should all have received your events cards for 2005. The golf days are as follows. April 12, Thorpe Hall; June 8, Abridge Golf and Country Club, which is a National Qualifier; August 4, South East Essex Golf Club; October 6, the Bentley Golf Club; December 1, the Essex Golf Club, which will be followed by the AGM.

My, what a boring article! Will write again soon.

Geoff Smith



### South West

Winter finally got its own back by spectacularly mugging all the competitors with a bitter cold wind for our early spring competition, at Weston Super Mare Golf Club, on February 23. Wasn't it Adge Cutler and the Wurzels who penned some completely loopy song about Weston Super Mare? Mindless lyrics about ice cream and donkeys? They obviously didn't bother to suss it out in February, when even the seagulls were huddled morosely outside the travel agents in the middle of town. Trust me Adge, it was so cold, your Wurlitzer would have frozen solid and most probably dropped off.

Despite the freezing conditions, there was some good golf played on some absolutely superb greens. Yours truly was "off sick" with a virus and missed the day, so apologies if some of the details are not quite up to my normal standards. 1. Jamie Acton, 43 points; 2. N. Smith, 40 points; 3. P. Gibson, 37 points.

Nearest the Pin, with prizes from Tower Chemicals, were Paul Godwin and Nobby Knight. Peter Blackwell, of Bredy Irrigation, one of our new Patronage Partners, gave a short presentation of their products, and we were grateful to Richard Whyman, National Vice Chairman, for attending. He took away our very best wishes for his coming year in office. Many thanks to Weston Super Mare GC for the courtesy of the course, and thanks to all the club staff, indoors and out, for a super day.

A big welcome to the Section to Dominic Rogers, who is joining The Wiltshire Golf Club as Course Manager on April 1. Dominic has been Course Manager at the Suffolk Golf & Country Club for the past four years and is a keen golfer. He is looking forward to attending the Section meetings, and is particularly looking forward to the Section visit to The Wiltshire on May 19 for the Greenkeeper Amateur Tournament. No pressure Dominic, we like the greens at 10 on the stimpmeter, and all the rough well mown.

At Minchinhampton the staff have been very busy putting the final touches to two new tees and a long stretch of dry stone-wall is being rebuilt. A small water feature is being completed and we are installing small concrete pads to facilitate the collection of grass clippings from around the courses. The last monthly pass with the deep spiker on the greens will be in March, we then switch to shallower tining and linear aeration, spring and autumn.

I recently did a 'PowerPoint' presentation to some of the MGC members, based on the one I did for the Regional Seminar at Cannington last year. It was very well received and certainly helped to raise the awareness of members within the club. I also received the ultimate accolade by being invited to give a similar presentation to a Deputy Course Managers training day for Crown Golf, at their headquarters at the Blue Mountain Golf Centre.

Finally - I daresay everyone has his own favourite digger driver. Ours is Digger Dave Lees, who works for Robert Cole Landscapes. He is one of those devastatingly helpful types, who can make the JCB sit up and dance. What he can't do with an excavator isn't worth bothering with.



Towards the end of March we were finishing the last tee construction on the Avening course. Dave was roaring up and down with the digger carrying bucketfuls of muck and rubble, I was watching morosely from a short distance away, wondering how I was going to explain all this latest lot of mud and ruts to the Committee, when the JCB suddenly screeched to a halt and Digger Dave vaulted from the cab. "Aha," he yelled triumphantly, "I thought so" and picked something up out of the mud.

I clumped over bad-temperedly, mentally cursing that I hadn't been paying more attention, while conjuring up images of treasure-trove and Dave swapping the JCB for a Rolls Royce. When I got to him he was staring intently at a muddy, dripping object, which looked like a small stone with tattered fabric clinging to it.

"Look at that," he smirked, "A mobile phone - some poor so-and-so must have dropped it ages ago - ha! Won't be much good now I've run it over." He was just musing about how long it must have been lying there, when suddenly and unexpectedly - it rang.

"Hello?" he said slowly and suspiciously, and then much more abruptly, "How'd-you-get-this-number?" Then the penny dropped. Slapping his pockets, and then looking desperately back into the cab, his own phone-holder was empty. The call terminated abruptly with a loud sizzling noise, and Digger Dave clambered slowly back into the cab no doubt determined to take it out on the course.

Keep the news coming in guys - see you all at Forest Hills.

Home 01285 651908. Work 01453 837355. Mobile 07768 394593.

paul.worster@tesco.net.

Paul Worster

## South Coast

We have at last seen some winter weather during the last couple of weeks. The weather leading up to the cold snap has been unseasonably warm and dry which has brought its own set of problems. I know there have been several courses seeing unusual heavy levels of play because they have not been closed due to the good weather. No doubt everyone is very busy trying to finish those winter programmes before spring arrives.

We have been continuing our heathland restoration work and have had a number of trees removed as well as clearing some invasive scrub. We have followed this work up with removing debris that has covered the mineral soil and seed bank and hopefully in the next couple of years these areas will again be heather stands as they were some 40 years ago.

We should have expected bad weather in February, as it always seems to arrive when we have our Section seminar. We had a record turn out for the day, which was held at Canford Magna Golf Club, and also a reserve list. We have a ceiling of 110 delegates so for those who failed to get a place this year I suggest you apply earlier next. Thankfully the weather stayed good for us and a packed clubhouse was treated to a superb day with Jim Arthur agreeing to act as Chairman.

Ian Tomlinson gave us an excellent insight into the excellent work he is carrying out at Rungsted Golf Club, in Denmark. With a pesticide ban in force Ian, like many of the golf clubs in Denmark, are turning to traditional greenkeeping and promoting fescue and bents with excellent results. Ian was followed by Gordon Irvine, who is currently working at Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club as a Consultant.

Gordon is helping restore this great golf course back to its very best and his presentation showed us some of the work currently being carried out. Again it was promoting traditional greenkeeping, although Gordon also raised some issues that are concerning him within our profession and gave us some food for thought.

Malcolm Peake finished the morning session off with a presentation relating the importance of teamwork when carrying out corrective programmes. The Chairman of the Green is a very important part of that team and Malcolm worked extremely hard with Martin Gunn, at Temple Golf Club, when he was Greens Chairman. It was suggested by Brian Pierson that Malcolm should be cloned so every golf club could have him!

Lunch followed and Canford Magna again provided an excellent buffet for us.

There was a healthy buzz around the room as people discussed the morning's presentations. Billy McMillan was first up after lunch and his presentation showed us the importance of teamwork, communicating effectively, expanding our teams to include committee members, etc as well as how to motivate effectively and fulfil those dreams.

The final speaker was National Chairman Kerran Daly, our former Section Chairman. Kerran is currently implementing a corrective programme at Gog Magog Golf Club with some staggering results after only three years. The fescues that once dominated the turf at Gog Magog are returning at a very impressive rate thanks to the hard work of the team.

Kerran ended his presentation by reciting one of his own poems, which was a tribute to Jim Arthur entitled 'The Knights of King Arthur' and the day was over.

I would like to thank Canford Magna Golf Club for their hospitality and in particular Alan and Jackie for all their help in ensuring the day ran so smoothly. We could not organise such a great seminar without the support from sponsors and I would like to thank BIGGA's Gold and Silver Key holders and Farmura and Bredy Irrigation Services. Many thanks to all of the speakers who gave superb presentations and gave the captive audience much to think and talk about. Also, many thanks to Jim Arthur for ably chairing the day. It was good to see Jim enjoying the day listening to his disciples!

I would also like to thank the GTC and the R&A for all their support and help and in particular Fiona at the GTC who worked so hard in putting together the handouts. Lastly many thanks to all who attended. Our seminar continues to be a huge success and that is largely due to great support we get from those of you who attend, long may it continue! We are already looking at next year's so if you have any particular speakers you wish to hear or a topic you want covered please contact me.

Our first golf day will be the spring tournament at Highcliffe Castle Golf Club, on Tuesday May 10. The 27 hole Stableford will be a qualifier again for the National Tournament. Divisional winners will receive free entry as well as the usual prizes from our sponsors. Cost for the day will be £19 and cheques, made payable to BIGGA South Coast, should be sent to: Chris Sturgess, 40 Kinsbourne Way, Thornhill, Southampton, Hampshire, SO19 6HB.

That's all for this month, if you have any news then contact me at 01202 661106, 07966 386232 or a.mccombie@ntlworld.com

Until next month

Alex McCombie

## Devon and Cornwall

It's just amazing what some Course Managers will get up to in order to earn some beer money! Andy Parker, the Course Manager at the Downs Golf Course at Crediton, is in the process of increasing his greenkeeping skills by becoming a marine salvage expert. Recently a member parked his car on the upper car park at the club in his usual spot, nothing wrong with that you might think, except that he neglected to put his hand brake on, oh dear.

You know what is coming next. You have guessed it; the car slowly but surely started to creep forward, through the fence, over the 10th tee, down the bank, straight into the lake constructed about a year ago, PLASH!

Well, as Andy said, it could have been a lot worse, it could have gone across the 18th green, at least it makes a change from a golf buggy entering the water.

February commenced with north and northeast winds, snow and frost, yes, we do have snow in Devon and Cornwall and freezing temperatures, that is until we arrived at Newquay Golf Club, on February 16.

The skies were a bright blue and looking down over Fistrel Beach one could have been in the South of France. In fact it was so warm that the majority of the golfers finished their round playing in short sleeves. The day's golf was kindly sponsored by Avoncrop Amenity Products, many thanks go to Rod Feltham, the Managing Director, and to our President, John Palfrey, who as Starter set all off from the first tee and was later on hand to give out the prizes.

The day commenced with a Stableford Competition, playing off the white tees, and the results were as follows: 1. Jason Brooks, Torquay Golf Club, 39 pts, Hcp 3; 2. Andy Parker, Downs Crediton, 34 pts, Hcp 5; 3. Mike Bush, from St Mellion International, 33 pts, Hcp 13.