

30 members took part in the golf and Chris Pearson, the new Head Greenkeeper at Newquay, did a course walk with 20 non-golfers in glorious sunshine. A big thank you to Chris and his team for presenting the course in such excellent condition.

After the golf and course walk we sat down to a marvellous lunch thanks to Geoff, the Head Chef, which was enjoyed by all. The lunch was followed by a talk from none other than our old friend Dave Everett, Course Manager from Lyme Regis Golf Club, explaining how he copes with losing part of his course through coastal erosion, and we think we have problems! Well done Dave, your talk was appreciated by all.

Before rounding off my report for this month I have two requests, one from our President, John, who has asked that the member that won the Avoncrop Trophy, two years ago, please could he return it or contact John.

The second request is from none other than me, with the same problem. The DOH Trophy has not been returned for some time, so I would be very grateful if you could contact me in the near future and return it.

Finally, I am endeavouring to arrange our summer meeting in June at Launceston Golf Club and will hopefully give you a date in next month's edition.

That's about it. Keep well and keep fit, spring is around the corner.
Donovan O Hunt

South Wales

After a long absence the South Wales Section is back. Hopefully all winter programmes are nearly to an end and that you are looking forward to the spring and summer. Wales has been lucky to miss the recent bad weather that has been affecting the east of Britain with snow drifts of 100ft in London, although very cold, the figures tell us that February was 20% drier than last year.

Hopefully you have already applied to be apart of the Support team for this year's Open Championship at St Andrews, to those who have, we hope that you will be successful with your application, for those who have not applied, this is an amazing opportunity to be apart of the biggest golfing event in Europe, it is strongly recommended that you apply next year. Contact BIGGA Headquarters for further details.

Congratulations go to Machynys Golf Course for taking on the Ladies Welsh Open 2005, I understand that Royal Porthcawl were happy to pass this event on to the new club and ease the pressure on the staff after a run of four years. A quick note to congratulate David Ward (MBE) and his team for their excellent work during their commitment to the Welsh Open.

Darryl Jones has left Garnant Park Golf Club to return to his home club of Glynneath. Darryl, who has worked in the industry for 14 years, has worked across Britain and has finally settled down. I would like to wish him all the best for the future at Glynneath Golf Club and to ask for the £20 he owes me, which I borrowed to him on his leaving do.

Peter, from Treflooyne, has decided to go on a career change, working with his family he has set up and taken on a Catering Franchise and I know all of us in the South Wales Section wish him all the best.

Adrian Griffiths has joined Steve Mills at The Gower Golf Club. Adrian, formally of Glynabbey Golf Course, has decided to join the Gower and give advice to Steve on how to run a Golf Course!

You should have recently received your educational calendar, from Tower Chemicals, along with the fixture/seminar list, which they kindly sponsored, our thanks go out to them for their support of the 2005 season. You will see from the list that a number of top events have been organised, every effort should be made to attend these events.

I have been approached by several A1, A2 - formally D32, D33 - assessors enquiring about a recent post by Myerscough College on the website that informs these assessors that they can be paid for doing assessments, I will need to enquire into this further and report back in due course.

Paul Discombe has been in positive mood this year with the retention of the greenkeepers attending college at an all time high level. Paul, however has concerns with the level of resource that is allocated to the up keep of the college golf course, which is used as a learning tool for the student greenkeepers. If there are any companies out there that could provide the college and the future

greenkeepers with machinery then this would be excellent PR. Contact Paul on Pdiscombe@brigend.ac.uk

I would like to congratulate Garnant Park Golf Club for recently winning the Welsh Section of the BIGGA Environmental Award, the prize was a cheque for £500.

I have just recently received an application form from the SCW for a Ryder Cup Legacy Fund, which has gone to all local authorities promoting any projects that will attract golfers or enhance facilities in readiness for the Ryder Cup. Two million in total is available, keep you eyes open for this.

We are looking to automate the letters that get sent out by developing a database of email, 70% of people have access to email, so please supply your email address to Peter at the next gathering or send it to his home address which is 31 Browns Drive, Pennard, Swansea.

April 21 is the date for the Section's Seminar, to be held at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club. Entitled 'The Balanced Approach', the schedule for the day is as follows:

9am: Registration, Coffee and Biscuits; 9.25: Introduction to Seminar by Chairman Mr Angus Macloed; 9.30: Jonathan Harmer MD Farmura - The Balanced Approach - Back to the Future?; 10.30: Ian Elliott, Marketing Manager, Omex Group - The Targeted use of Plant Nutrients to improve Health and Vigour; 11.30: George Attwood-Harris, BSc Hons - The Agronomist and the Golf Course; 12.45: Lunch Break; 13.45: Who wants to be a Millionaire?; 14.14: Guest Speaker - Jim Arthur; 15.30: Coffee and Biscuits/Close of Seminar.

Diolch
Kerry

NORTHERN IRELAND

Firstly I would like to apologise for the lack of notes over the last few months. It's now early March and the weeks are just passing so quickly. The winter work programmes are nearing completion and the spring competitions are fast approaching.

At Allen Park we will soon be bringing our new bunkers into play, which should provide both members and visitors with a completely new challenge. We have rebuilt and added about 30 new bunkers to our front nine, with a similar project on our back nine to commence in September this year.

I must add that the work was expertly completed by Trevor Simpson and his team from the contractors CJ Haffey's. Trevor is very well regarded by greenkeepers throughout the province for his skill in using his mechanical digger to shape and transform any area on your golf course. Golf Course Architect, David Jones, has expertly designed our bunker reconstruction.

Our new Section Secretary, Gary Crawford, from Royal Co Down, is currently organising a number of events for this year, which will lead up to our autumn seminar in early November.

The spring golf outing will be held in the last week of April. The venue has had to be changed at short notice, so members will be informed in early April of the exact date and location, which should be North Down. Other dates for the diary will be Fortwilliam GC on May 26; Allen Park on June 30; Clandeboye GC, which is a charity day on August 5; and the National Championship Qualifier at Royal Co Down in mid September.

So members why not introduce a colleague or greenkeeping friend to the Association and come along to our golf days this year and enjoy the genuine friendship and good humour that exists within our Section.

I would like to welcome here new members to the Section this month, Patrick O'Brien, Gerrard Hughes and David McClutcheon. Well that is all my news for this month.

Ken Henderson

Safe Use of Vehicles - The Hazards

Tutorial Ten

Under the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992/1999 and PUWER, golf clubs have a responsibility to identify all hazards and mitigate the risks.

In general terms, the Regulations require that equipment provided for use at work is: suitable for the intended use; safe for use; maintained in a safe condition and, in certain circumstances, inspected to ensure this remains the case; used only by people who have received adequate information, instruction and training and, accompanied by suitable safety measures, e.g. protective devices, markings, warnings.

Golf clubs are never flat, or very rarely, and also require complicated manoeuvres to ensure all areas of the course are safely cut. The hazards associated with course machinery activities should be identified by the club in a formal risk assessment and should cover the use of all cutting and mobile machinery. The type of equipment to consider will be:

- Use of all cutting machinery
- Use of tractors
- Use of buggies
- Use of trailers
- Use of any other vehicles

The purpose of the risk assessment is to determine the following:

- What are the particular slopes and angle of descent/ascent?
- What are the difficult areas and risks to manoeuvre?
- Identify any steep drop offs.

- Identify any ditches or holes in the ground.
- Identify any on road areas and crossings.
- Identify any interactions with golfers or the public.

Once the risk assessment is completed there should ideally be a series of findings that identify concerns with the type of vehicle utilised or the specification of the vehicle to carry out the task. In addition, some of the findings may be that the routing of the vehicles could be improved to lower the risks.

Some of the measures to eliminate or reduce the risks will be:

- Fitting of Roll Over Protection (ROP) with seat belts.
- Using a different vehicle on steep slopes or on edges of tees.
- Fitting of edges to bridges, where the bridge is narrow for the vehicle.
- Elimination of wrong types on buggies.
- Improved routings to avoid main roads and crossings.
- Fitting of better guards.
- Use vehicles with better gearings for difficult areas.
- Protection of the vehicle from golf ball impacts.

Prepared by Haztek International Golf Club Health and Safety Advisors 0208 905 7552



Tip of the Month

Terry Buchen, CGCS, MG
Golf Agronomy International



HANDS FREE!

At the Bandon Dunes and Pacific Dunes courses, on the Oregon Coast, which are "walking-only" golf courses, a greenkeeper pulls a trolley that carries his bunker rake, where all of the bunkers are raked by hand; edging tools, for edging around the sprinkler heads and tee yardage plaques; fairway soil, seed and compost/fertiliser mixture in one of the larger buckets.

A second larger bucket is used for discarded tee and fairway divots and occasional discarded paper debris left by golfers. The smaller bucket can be used for a second soil, seed and compost/fertiliser mixture for the tees or for carrying small tools.

A roll of hose can also be placed around the handle when hand watering of the turf surfaces is required.

Do you have a tip that has helped you in your day-to-day work on the golf course? If so, why not share it with other greenkeepers. Please send any tips you feel would benefit your fellow readers to us either by post at BIGGA HOUSE or by email to gareth@bigga.co.uk.

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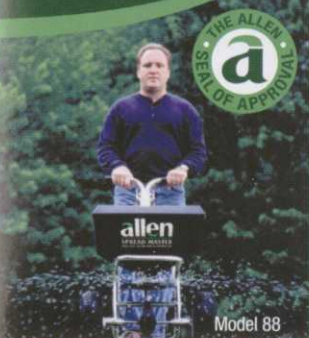
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Any enquiries please phone Matthew Coles on 07899 848 099.

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Requires an

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PA1, 2 & 6 would be an advantage

Applicants must be highly motivated, enthusiastic, and a committed team member

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