

place over the weekend of March 18 – 20 2005. Simply write to Nobby Knight, 17 St. Marys Gardens, Hilperton, Trowbridge, Wilts. BA14 7PG, and explain in detail how your career would benefit, and the experiences you would gain from such a trip. Good luck, may the best guy (or gal) win.

A warm welcome to Jane Jones, our new Regional Administrator. Jane joins us from managing the admin at Thornbury Golf Centre and is unquestionably a tremendous asset to the Region.

The Regional Seminar at Cannington on the Environment was a really informative day, with many commenting that it was "one of the best ever". Modesty precludes me from too many details, but a big thank you to all the speakers.

Lots of Section members have taken the trouble to contact me after my PowerPoint presentation, and the result of the Environment Competition. One of the nicest comments was actually in the car park at Kingsdown. One greenkeeper, whom I don't know that well, stopped me to say he'd enjoyed the presentation. He went on to tell me that back at work a few days later, he was building a new tee and had ended up with a small corner with nothing particular in it. He thought back to the presentation, and ended up putting in a rockery with flat stones and a few plants. This to me encapsulates the whole point of the competition. It spreads ideas, and breeds innovation.

The next Section meeting will be on February 23 2005 and is the Section Winter meeting at Weston Super Mare. Let's support our Section and sponsors, by ensuring a really good turnout on a great golf course with good dry walking.

A Health & Safety incident now. I was sitting quietly at my desk the other afternoon working on a report when one of my staff limped into the rest room and collapsed on a chair. "Big Rich", six foot six in his socks, who joined us after a long career as a bouncer (or ballroom technician as they prefer to be known), was rubbing his leg but smiling as though he'd won the lottery. "You alright?" I murmured, wondering why he had such a big grin on his face. "Yep, just got hit by a golf ball," he said, proudly rolling up his trouser leg to reveal a nasty purple bruise, with 'Titleist' stamped in reverse on his thigh.

"If you don't mind my saying so," I muttered, "you look mighty pleased for someone that's just been clobbered with a ball." The grin widened, "Yes," he smirked, "It was Tony (the landlord) from The Bell. I'm off home for a shower, this is going to cost him a few pints." As I watched him wobble off on his bike, I did experience a passing moment of sympathy for Tony. Big Rich is one of those accomplished drinkers who can "unhinge" his throat and tip a pint straight down without having to waste time swallowing.

The good news is that Marc Haring has kindly agreed to help input into this column (so normal service will be resumed). Please contact me with any news, people on the move, interesting or amusing stories - in short, anything that will help to brighten up the news. Otherwise, don't forget, there's always my holidays.

Paul Worster 01285 651908, Work: 01453 837355, 07768 394593

South Coast

Happy New Year! I'm not sure about you all but I love January. Ok forget about how bad you feel, because those jeans that have just become unbearably tight around the waist, after the over indulgence over the Christmas period. The crash diets not making you any happier and although you're detoxing you just want a drink. That New Year's resolution you made when you were very merry at midnight on New Years Eve, with the very best intentions, of course, was broken after only a day. And how can I forget the credit card bill landing on the doorstep just to rub salt into the wounds, how can we have spent so much? Yet I still love January.

It may be the imminent trip to Harrogate and BTME, I love Harrogate week. It's great to travel up and meet so many friends and colleagues and share another year's experiences with each other. The show is always good and the seminars are the icing on the cake, it's just a shame more people don't travel up from the Section. I'm particularly looking forward to seeing our former Section Chairman, Kerran Daly MG, becoming the BIGGA Chairman for 2005. Kerran takes over from Andy Campbell MG who has done a tremendous job during some difficult times and has helped move the Association forward. I'm sure Andy will enjoy stepping back from the hectic role of Chairman, so well done Andy, enjoy the rest! I'm sure Kerran will settle in very quickly and continue with the good work that has seen the Association move to a very strong position, have a great year Kerran!

On to Section news. Our last golf day of 2004 was held at Barton-on-Sea Golf Club, in December, and once again we were very lucky with the weather. Tony Gadd and his team had been working flat out preparing the course for our arrival and planning some fiendish pins, ah don't you just love them! The day was sponsored by New Forest Farm Machinery and Sheerwater and it was good to see our sponsors on the golf course, although Rob Crouch wasn't looking too happy. Was it the high spirits of the previous night's Christmas party catching up with him? No. Or was his golf not quite up to the usual standard? Not this either. It was the news that Harry Rednapp had just been introduced as the new Southampton manager. Football, it's a funny old game!

Anyway, on to the golf. We had fantastic support with 75 playing and winners on the day were: Division 1. 1. Simon Ridland, 38pts; 2. Phil Nason, 37pts. Division 2. 1. Mark Zealander, 42pts; 2. Paul Staples, 41pts. Division 3. 1. Peter Stevens, 34pts; 2. Chris Sherrington, 33pts. Repts Prize. Mike Ring, 38pts. Longest Drive. Mark Davies. Nearest the Pin. Steve Privett.

Many thanks to Barton-on-Sea for their superb hospitality, to Tony Gadd and his team for all their hard work in preparing the course so well for us and the caterers and bar staff for providing us with an excellent meal and looking after us so well. A huge vote of thanks to New Forest Farm Machinery and Sheerwater for their continued sponsorship of the day. Many thanks Nick and Mark, we really do appreciate. Thanks must also go to Alan Magee for all his hard work with the scoring and selling the raffle tickets, I don't think anyone escaped Al and his raffle books. Last but by no means least, Chris Sturgess. Chris does a tremendous job organising our golf days and we really do appreciate it Chris. We all just turn up on the day and take for granted all the hard work that has been carried out to make the day possible, so many thanks Chris!

During the presentation ceremony the Jim Fry Pairs Trophy was presented to Dave Hewitt and Joe Cooper after their success in the final over Stuart Hooker and Justin Lewellyn. The final was excellent with both pairings being well up in the match, but

victory was sealed on the last hole. Well played! Entry forms for next year's competition should have arrived to you by now, along with our new fixture cards and the Section seminar flyers. Our fixture cards have a new sponsor this year, Phil Sharp Golf Course Equipment. Phil sells a wide range of course equipment and tools and we are very happy and excited to be forging a close working relationship with him, thanks Phil.

As I mentioned before, our Section seminar is at Canford Magna Golf Club, on February 24. Full details should be with you now and the speakers for the day are; Billy McMillan, Ian Tomlinson, Gordon Irvine, Malcolm Peake, Kerran Daly MG and Stuart Ashworth. Cost for the day is £15 for members and £20 for a non member, which includes lunch, coffee etc. I recommend booking early as numbers are limited and with the excellent line of speakers spaces will go very quickly. If you have any queries about the seminar then please contact me or look at the BIGGA website which has full details.

I would just like to pass on all of the Section's thoughts to Colin White as he goes through treatment for his illness at the moment. We have missed seeing you at both our golf days and courses Colin and we look forward to seeing you back very soon.

Our thoughts must also go out to Ian Greenwood's family after he passed away recently. Ian was instrumental in setting up our original Section and will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Alex McCombie Tel 01202 661106 07966 386232 a.mccombie@ntlworld.com

Devon and Cornwall

Time certainly flies by, and just think, as soon as we take all the Christmas decorations down it will be time for the BTME at Harrogate. As most of you will be aware by now Amenity Technology will not be sponsoring the coach from the South West Region in January, this is hardly surprising when one considers that in 2004 only fifteen members travelled on the coach. Instead the company will be subsidising the Hotel, for further information please contact Jane Jones our Regional Administrator.

Wednesday November 17, the South and South Wales Regions held a very successful seminar at Cannington College. The day's lectures were on Environmental Issues and were presented by excellent speakers, something we all have to think about in the very near future. It was very rewarding for all the organisers to see a very good attendance, both greenkeepers and students. At the end of the day we were delighted to welcome our Chief Executive, John Pemberton, and Rachael Palmer. To everyone's surprise John announced the winners of the National BIGGA Environment Awards, and to the delight of all the Region the results were as follows: Minchinhampton Golf Club were the National Winners, and the award was presented to Paul Worster, the Course Manager, Jeff Mills, on behalf of The Taunton and Pickering Golf Club, received the award for The Best Environmental Initiative, and Bath Golf Club won the award for The Best Use Of Recycling Materials. The award was collected by the Deputy Head Greenkeeper. Congratulations go to all that participated in the 2004 Competition.

On Wednesday 10 our Section held its AGM, at Wrangaton Golf Club on the Edge of Dartmoor. The day commenced with a Foursomes Stableford competition in very windy conditions, nothing unusual when playing this course as the greenkeeping staff will tell you, but at least it kept the rain away, and eventually the blue skies appeared and the sun shone.

The winners of the Competition were: 1. Buster Lewer and Garry Tuckett, 34 points; 2. Kevin Yeoman and Justin Austin, 32 points; 3. Kevin Miller and Adam Bridgwater, 32 points. Alan Dommett, of Devon Garden Machinery, whose company sponsored the day, presented the prizes, many thanks Alan.

A big thank you to Wrangaton Golf Club and all the staff that made us so welcome, and of course a special thanks go to Gerald Ayliffe, the Head Greenkeeper, who presented the course in excellent condition, not always easy in the climatic conditions of Dartmoor, which seems to have one of the heaviest rain falls in Devon.

I would at this point like to say how good it was to see Gordon Child joining us again and playing golf, after his hip and leg operations. Last but not least, congratulations to Richard Whyman who will become Vice Chairman next year of BIGGA and to Jeff Mills who joins the National Board well done to both.

Donovan. O. Hunt

NORTHERN IRELAND

Northern Ireland

Our Section AGM was held at Fortwilliam GC, in Belfast, on November 30. The new committee for 2005 was elected and, as past Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members who supported the Section throughout the past year. I would also like to convey my sincere thanks and appreciation to our Secretary, Emmett Curran, for all his hard work and commitment over the last couple of years.

The committee for 2005 is as follows: Chairman, Michael O'Neill, Fortwilliam GC; Secretary, Gary Crawford, Royal Co Down GC; Treasurer, Emmett Curran, Downpatrick GC; Magazine and Education Officer, Ken Henderson, Allen Park GC; Match and Handicap Secretary, Noel Crawford, Royal Co Down GC.

This year's winner of our Golfer of the Year Trophy was presented to our new Chairman, Michael O'Neill. Michael played some excellent golf throughout the year and just beat Warren Burnside, from Malone GC.

Moving on to education, it is hoped to run a one or two day course towards the end of February 2005. Headquarters are currently organising the subject, date and venue, so members will be informed over the coming weeks.

There will also be an autumn seminar organised for late October/early November 2005. If any member would like to suggest a speaker or topic they would like to hear, please get in touch with me at Allen Park on 02894429001 or contact any other committee member. Finally I would like to congratulate Terry Crawford, Course Manager at Clondeboyce GC, on his selection onto the 2005 BIGGA Delegation, sponsored by Bernhard, to Orlando, Florida.

Ken Henderson

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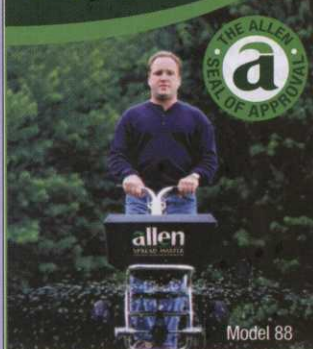
With continued mild, wet
weather, these patches may
enlarge to a foot or more in
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THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE SHOULD POSSESS THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS AND ATTRIBUTES;

Experienced, self-motivated hard working and a team player, innovative and have excellent management skills to lead and train the Greenkeepers along with:

- Working experience with warm season grasses
- Experience in grinding machines and mechanical skills
 - Knowledge about PC irrigation system
 - Growing in the golf course
- Identify diseases and treatment in the turf grasses.

Salary will be negotiable and suitable accommodation will be provided.

Interviews will be held during BTME & ClubHouse Show in Harrogate in January 2005

Please apply in writing no later than 8th January 2005, with full CV to:

Sevim Ozkırac, Project Coordinator
100 Bedreddin Demirel Cad. Kat 3, P.O.Box 82,
Lefkosa, Mersin 10 - TURKEY
E-mail sevim@kormancons.com

BRADFORD GOLF CLUB

(Hawthorpe)

Has an immediate vacancy for an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

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Competitive rates of pay with training opportunities exist for the right candidate.

Please apply in writing by 31st January to:

David Thackray, Head Greenkeeper
Bradford Golf Club, Hawthorpe Lane, Guiseley, Leeds
LS20 8NP. Tel: 01943 875570

GANTON GOLF CLUB

require an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

- Minimum 5 years' golf course experience
- Qualifications to NVQ Level 2 or equivalent
- PA1, 2 and 6 spraying certificates an advantage
- Ability to work as part of an experienced team

Please apply in writing with your C.V to:

The Secretary, Ganton Golf Club, Ganton, Nr Scarborough,
North Yorkshire, YO12 4PA.

Email: secretary@gantongolfclub.com

Closing Date for Applications: 31st January 2005

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ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

at Mid Sussex Golf & Country Club, Ditchling,
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Mid Sussex
Golf & Country Club

The successful candidate will have qualified to at least NVQ Level 2 in "Greenkeeping, Sports Turf and Sports Ground Maintenance" and have at least one years experience in the industry.

Send a full CV, marked "Private & Confidential", to:

Matthew Orwin
Director of Golf Operations
Slinfold Park Golf & Country Club
Stane Street
Slinfold
Horsham
West Sussex RH13 0RT
Mobile: 07743 877119
Email: mwgo2000@yahoo.co.uk

Stourbridge Golf Club

has an immediate vacancy for a

Qualified Greenkeeper

The following requirements for the post are:

- Minimum of five years experience
- Qualified to at least NVQ2 with PA1, 2 & 6
- Understanding of current Health & Safety regulations
- To be enthusiastic, highly motivated and committed to working in a team environment

Salary negotiable according to experience

Apply in writing with C.V. to

The Secretary,
Stourbridge Golf Club,
Worcester Lane,
Pedmore, Stourbridge,
West Midland.
DY8 2RB

1st Assistant Greenkeeper

required at busy Surrey driving range
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Applications including C.V. should be sent to: Mr Philip Fillary, Head Greenkeeper, Pachesham Park Golf Centre, Oaklawn Road, Leatherhead, Surrey. KT22 0BT
or for further details call 07905 895508

ORSETT GOLF CLUB

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Requires an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

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Written applications, including full C.V should be sent to:

Don Clark, Orsett Golf Club, Brentwood Road, Orsett, Essex, RM16 3DS

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Fax: +34 968 041 770

Email: sylvain.durval@polarisworld.com

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Recruitment

KIRKHILL GOLF CLUB

Has an immediate vacancy for an

Assistant Greenkeeper

The following requirements for the post are:-

Minimum four years experience
Qualified to at least NVQ2 with PA1,2 & 6
Level 3 would be an advantage
Candidate must be highly motivated and committed

Apply in writing with CV to:-

The Secretary
Kirkhill Golf Club
Greenlees Road
Glasgow G72 8YN
Closing date - Friday 28th January 2005

MICKLEOVER GOLF CLUB



Requires an

Experienced Greenkeeper

An immediate vacancy has arisen for a self-motivated and enthusiastic individual to join our established team.

Applicants should have experience in all aspects of course maintenance work and be committed to working to a high standard.

Salary by negotiation

Applications in writing, with full C.V. by January 24th 2005 to:

Mr G W Finney, Managing Secretary, Mickleover Golf Club,
Uttoxeter Road, Mickleover, Derby DE3 9AD.

Assistant Greenkeeper required at Blackmoor Golf Club

The successful applicant will possess, or be working towards, NVQ2 in Fine Turf, PA1, 2 and 6 spraying certificates and a minimum of 2 years experience in Greenkeeping. Candidates will be highly motivated and able to work as part of a team. Salary is negotiable and based on BIGGA rates.

Written applications including full CV to:

Mr S Robinson, Head Greenkeeper, Blackmoor Golf Club, Firgrove
Road, Whitehill, Bordon, Hampshire GU35 9EH.
Alternatively email steve@blackmoorgolf.co.uk

www.blackmoorgolf.co.uk

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A competitive package is available to the successful candidate. Please apply in writing or by email with covering letter and CV to:

Scot Symon, Club Manager
Muckhart Golf Club Ltd.
Drumburn Road, Muckhart by Dollar
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**Closing date for receipt of applications is
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Recruitment



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Commercial Development Manager, Vitax Ltd, Owen Street,
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e-mail: marketing@vitax.co.uk

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