

footsteps Mathew Lewis joins the team. Mathew started his career at Carden Park GC last summer during the European Senior's event under the watchful eye of MG Andy Campbell, now a process more fondly coined in the phrase "Cutting your teeth with Campbell". Reports so far say that father and son are both doing well and still speaking... watch this space!

Mesen Cymru

Andrew Acorn

andrew@acorngolf.co.uk

## MIDLAND REGION

### East Midlands

This year's Spring Tournament was hosted by Melton Mowbray on May 18. The weather was set dry but windy, and with a reasonable turnout of 40 members, with a well set up course, some good scores were expected.

Our overall winner was Chris Brown, from Horsley Lodge, with 37pts. Category 1, 0-9. 1. Maurice Hume, Stanton, 32 pts; 2. Brain Rice. Southwell, 32pts. Category 2, 10-18. 1. Adi Porter, Greetham Valley, 37pts; 2. Robert Duval, Scraftoft, 37pts. Category 3, 19-28. 1. Asa English. Charnwood, 36pts; 2. Nigel White, Scraftoft, 36pts. Trade and Associates. 1. Ryun Holden, Rigby Taylor, 33pts. 2. Kevin Haslam, Mansfield Sand, 32pts. Nearest the Pin. Adi Porter. Longest Drive. Paddy McCarron.

Our thanks should go to all of the green staff at Melton for setting up a delightful course and also we would like to thank the catering staff for an excellent meal. Our thanks should also go to the Committee for allowing us courtesy of Melton Mowbray GC.

Finally, I would like to thank Mansfield Sand for sponsoring the day. Tacit for Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive, and to all our other trade members who brought a prize.

Once again can I please remind all members to make sure that their form and cheque are returned to me before the closing date, as tee off times and meals need to be booked.

On May 29, at the Cosby invitation, Alan Roberts and myself shot a Nett 66, which was not quite good enough for the prizes. However the highlight of the day came from Rod Hunter, of the Midland Section and who is Course Manager at Kidderminster GC, for his hole in one at the 185 yard 14th hole. Congratulations, make sure you don't play as well in our Section game in October.

Antony Bindley

### Midland

It was with some interest that I recently learnt that some golf balls contain honey as their liquid centre. The obvious and perhaps typical sentiment bring a whole new meaning to that of hitting the sweet spot. If only one was afforded such favours.

I'm afraid that is it for this month's banter, as I have not received anything else. Come on, there are nearly 500 of you. Some of you must have some news, a story, or indeed celebration to report. Please inform me on the usual number, 07816 410 552.

Our spring event was held at Maxstoke Park on May 9. It was reported to me that the course was in superb condition as presented by Andy Ross and his very fine team. Congratulations to you all.

The results of the day were: Best Gross. R. Thomas. Nett. 1. R. Thomas; 2. K. Swan; 3. D. Fellows; 4. S. Mucklow. The trade winner of the day was

T. Cheese. Our thanks to Headland Amenity for kindly sponsoring the main prize table. Also thanks to WBB Minerals for Nearest the Pin and the Longest Drive prizes, as won by R. Thomas and L. Swann respectively.

For over 50 years now Handsworth GC has held an annual President's Match v The Midland Greenkeepers. Something I have on a number of occasions been invited to play in. Unfortunately I was away for this year's match. However the challenging greenkeepers informed me that the course was in excellent condition, as produced by John Hughes and his ever loving and devoted staff.

Our thanks must go to Handsworth GC for continuing to invite us and indeed make us so very welcome at this most long running and indeed prestigious meeting. Thanks must also go to our great friend Eric Thomas for organising our team and to our eloquent speaker, Alan Kike. Unfortunately the greenkeepers lost, but such is of little consequence at such an auspicious event.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome four new members to our Section. Robert Rowson, Gary Cooper, David Hartley and finally Anthony Hardy, I'll be alright for a fly rod then. Also it is with great respect and best wishes that we hope that Brian Jefferies, of Bramcote Waters GC, enjoys a most happy, fulfilling and, indeed, well earned retirement.

Our Summer Tournament is coming up this month at Redditch Golf Club on July 22. Although the closing date for entries has passed, there may be room to squeeze one or two more entrees in, please phone R. Thomas on 07775 581615, if you wish to play.

Finally, the Section would like to wish Vince Lee a speedy recovery after a small operation. Perhaps the stores in his caravan may now contain food, rather than a liquid diet, namely Lager! Get well soon Vince.

I Look forward to reporting your news next month.

Sean McDade

### East of England

Firstly, I must start with a grovelling apology to R\*\*\*, who I wrongly accused of not wearing a tie at Sleaford - my solicitor has advised me not to worry about litigation as you can't get blood out of a stone. Secondly, I am going to have to pay my snouts more if I want accurate information.

With that sorted out, Cleethorpes, what can I say. Nice trip to the seaside - sun, fairground, fish and chips, one out of three is not bad, although the sun did eventually appear just in time for Les to go out (funny that). Joking aside, the course was in superb condition all credit to Les and his team.

Results: 1. R. Welford, 69-3-66; 2. B. Robinson, 90-21-69; Joint 3. J. Jarrel 70-0-70 and C. Nelson, 78-8-70. Nearest the Pin. D. Coupland. Guest Prize. P. Wilkinson.

Our thanks go to the sponsors of the day, Seoul Nassau and Graham Greenwood. This was our second competition of the year and both have been won with sub par rounds. Well done lads.

By the time this goes to print we will have been to Burghley, to celebrate Dave's 25th year at the course. Congratulations Dave, loyalty is a rare thing these days and I am sure you are good for another 25.

Finally, if Gary Cooper still has the shanks he could be part of the cross-country event. Rumour has it that's were he is happiest.

Allan Walker

### BB&O

The Open Golf Championship returns to St Andrews - the home of golf - for another year. Up until 1870, golfers used to play for 'The Belt' until it was won by Tom Morris Jnr in three consecutive years from 1868-1870 and therefore The Belt became his property. Now it is the famous Claret





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Jug that the greatest golfers from all over the world strive to get their hands on and achieve their lifetime dream of becoming The Open Champion.

It's also a time for the greenkeeper to reflect passionately for his profession and many of you will make your way to Scotland to share in the exciting events that always unfold at such an event. Some members of our Region will be involved as BIGGA Support Staff and we wish you a successful and enjoyable time away from home. Don't forget to get on the dog and bone if you have any news to report.

Talking of news, what a great day we all had at Henley GC on June 30. A full report on the day's events will appear in next month's edition.

Rob Surgey, from Wycombe Heights GC, had a surprise of his life when he, with family and friends, celebrated his stag night. One of Rob's favourite TV programmes is Little Britain and as he bears a likeness to one of the characters, a plot was hatched. However, due to the laws of censorship I am unable to publish what actually happened, but I can say Rob was dressed up as the only gay in the village and willingly or not, he apparently liked the colourful attire and tight trousers. Say no more! Congratulations on your forthcoming wedding.

Results from the Rigby Taylor Knockout have filtered through for the first round with The Royal Ascot Rollers victorious 3&2 against Radley Roughs. Hearted Hoofs won 4&3 against the Wycombe Warriors (led by the only gay in the village), with Henley Firsts losing 3&2 to the Norfolk Chances. Hester's Hackers won 6&5 against N.R.2. (Tartan Terminator's Team), Deans Woodpeckers won 2&1 against The Mountaineers. The Whippet & Scruppy (John Scoones and Bob the Builder) beat The Badgemore Boys, with the No Returns losing to Driving to Victory.

After all that, I apologise for the secret coding used in these results, so if you work for MI5 and you are a special agent you will probably have no difficulty in working these results out. However, living life as James Bond at Rigby Taylor is Gareth Acteson. So if you feel you need to contact Gareth, he has all the decipher codes for the competition.

The BB&O are holding a Section educational event at Frilford Heath GC on November 8. The seminar entitled 'Climatic Changes and its Effects on Golf Course Management' will include well known speakers who will take part in contributing their knowledge over a fascinating range of climatic issues that will effect our working environment for years to come. The agenda for the day will include coffee on arrival, two morning speakers followed by a buffet lunch, concluding with two lectures and question time with debate in the afternoon. Remember to pencil the date in your diary.

If any member has any news or views they would like to share, or would like more information about the Section and forthcoming events you only have to call John Scoones on 0788 550 380.

Mark Day

## Mid Anglia

Important news from Mid Anglia HQ, our summer event will now be held at Mount Pleasant Golf Club, Lower Stondon, Beds, on Thursday August 11. Arrive at midday for coffee and bacon rolls. First tee off will be at 1pm. All entries into Richard, as usual. Please get them in early.

That's all for now, here's to a long hot summer. Let's all pray our irrigation systems hold up, I know I will!

Bob Butfoy

## SOUTH EAST

### Surrey

Barry Robertson, with his boyish grin, infectious laugh and unruly mop of greying hair has managed the green staff at Banstead GC with a rod of iron for many, many years. Now in the twilight of his career he can still produce a golf course of which to be proud and with his rod of iron, ideally a 5 iron, the green staff will always jump to his command, immediately after their tea break. Barry, thank you from all the players for an excellent day's golf on May 17 and for allowing us to enjoy the chicken game on the A24.

Gary Rowe was the Best Gross. Arron Crittendon was runner up and Jason Hunt was third. Ian - Wiggy - Sellers won the Best Nett, Dave Langheim came second and yours truly came third. Nearest the Pin was Dave Langheim. Lee - Syrup -Strutt won the ladies' Straightest Drive and Phil Bennent walked for miles to pick up the wooden spoon. The sponsors were Avoncrop.

Sunningdale GC, the subject of many rumours over the past months trying to fill the vacancy of Course Manager, have at last agreed terms with Murray Long, at present Course Manager at Coombe Hill GC. Murray, a past winner of the Toro Student of the Year Award, will start his new job in September.

Congratulations to Mike Oram, Chipstead GC, and his bride, Mandy, who, at the time of writing, are enjoying their honeymoon in Cuba. Please give Castro our regards. Elaine, Assistant Greenkeeper at Limpsfield Chart GC, will be shortly leaving her Head Greenkeeper father, Robin Smith, to start her new job at Croham Hurst GC under the watchful eye of Roger Tydeman. Good luck Elaine.

Our last movers of the month are Neil Crittenden, who has left Oak Park GC in Farnham to go to Sweetwoods GC in Kent and Vince Ley, who has taken Neil's place.

Brian Willmott

### Kent

Hi guys, I hope you are all enjoying a successful start to the golfing season. The Kent Section held its first official event of the year recently at Wildernesse Golf Club. Although this was a non-golfing occasion a good turnout of greenkeepers were given a thorough insight into the running of this incredible course by Huw Morgan. Very many thanks to him for sharing some of his secrets with the rest of us.

Don't forget to make dates in your diaries for forthcoming golfing events. They are: September 29 at Southern Valley Golf Club for 18 holes and dinner. November 24 at Birchwood Park Golf Centre for the annual turkey trot and AGM.

We now have our own email address which is: kentgreenkeepers@dsl.pipex.com. Please use this to send any news or events to us.

Until next month then.

Rob Holland

### Sussex

Hello again, sorry no write up last month, I have been very busy with work. We have had a golf day since I last wrote, which was held at Pycombe Golf Club, and here are the details of it. We were blessed with





**Clive Osgood**  
SOUTH EAST  
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good weather and I had the added advantage of playing with two greenkeepers from the course. So I thank them for their advice and company on quite a long round.

I would like to thank everyone at Pycombe GC for a great day and a course in a lovely condition. This event was also the qualifier for the National Tournament and we had 36 players enter so there was a lot to play for.

The Gross winner was Jon Hill and the Nett winner was Peter Ray and both qualify for the National Tournament, which will be held in October at Worksop Golf Club and Sherwood Forest Golf Club. So congratulations to them both. The guest winner was Darren Mitchell.

It was good to see a few new faces, and bad to see a few old ones, no names given, but he does look like Ian Beale from Eastenders. Sorry Gaz, only joking, Ian Beale is better looking.

I would like to welcome a new member to the Association. He is from the Dyke Golf Club and his name is Duncan King Spencer. I know he is a keen golfer and lives up to his name.

I would like to thank all of you who attended and hope to see you at the next golf day, which will be held at Haywardsheath GC on July 14 and will be a team event. So hope to see you there.

Rob Hudson

## London

The first golf outing of the year was held on Friday May 27 at South Herts and this was also the qualifier for the BIGGA National Tournament, which will be held in October at Worksop Golf Club and Sherwood Forest Golf Club. As Mr Semple and myself were unavailable this made for a very open tournament, giving everyone else a fair chance!

The winning score was by Keir Grimwood and I hope he slept with a clear conscience that night. He posted a great score of 45pts, which only just scrapped into first, by the small margin of eight, past David Badham who had 37pts. Third and four were won by David Watkins and Sam Brennan respectively, with 36pts, and fifth prize went to Simon Ringrose on 35pts. Trade prize went to Jon Ryan (who else) with 37pts. So congratulations to Keir and David, who we wish all the best to at the Nationals.

The Section would like to thank our sponsors for the day, which wouldn't be possible if it wasn't for all their help. The main prizes were sponsored by Phil Jones, Supergrass, and Amenity Technology, with plenty of other great contributions from Mick Fance, Scotts, Jon Ryan, Browns, Symbio, Does, Headland, Avoncrop and Tacit.

39 people turned up which was excellent considering it was a Friday and a Bank Holiday weekend. I have spoken to a number of the guys and every one of them has said how great the course condition was. So well done to Colin Ford and his team. Thank you as well to the catering staff for a beautiful meal and many thanks to South Herts Golf Club for allowing us courtesy of the course.

Other news sees Lee Cox take over the mantle of Course Manager at Mill Hill. Lee has worked under Ian Semple as Deputy for a number of years now so I'm sure he is more than ready and we wish him all the best in his new capacity.

Congratulations also to Darren Burdis, Deputy Head at Brooke Park, whose partner, Jo, has just given birth to a lovely baby girl. I'm sure we will see you at the next golf day Darren as you could may well do with a break by then!

Alec MacIndoe  
07780 955 817



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

## East Anglia

Well the band of brothers plus Claire found their way eventually to Diss Golf Club on a bright and breezy day in May. I must say the course was absolutely beautiful and very well presented thanks to Robert Ransome and his team. The hours worked should be appreciated, not taken for granted.

With all that beauty about I could not see the point of hitting the ball straight. Others did however, especially Michael Buck, from Rushmere, with a Best Gross of 70. Needless to say he was first in the 0-10 Section with a Nett 69. Second was Mark Henderson, Thorpeness, with 70 on countback from Rob Boyce, Newmarket.

11-18 Section. 1. Brian Lemmon, 70, Barnham Broom; 2. Peter Howard, 72, Aldeburgh; 3. Ed Webster, 72. 19-28 Section. 1. Glen Rayfield, 68, best of the day, well done; 2. Keith Titshall, 69, Walderingfield; 3. Robert Ransome, 71, Diss. Best Trade was Steve Dickinson, Rigby Taylor, 68, playing off a handicap of 1, as was Mick Buck. Second Trade was Stewart Patterson, from Bartram Mowers, 70. Nearest the Pin. Ray Goodshall. Longest Drive. Michael Buck. The loo seat was won by Martin Myson for conducting the Electric Light Orchestra!

The prizes were presented by the Club Manager, Chris Welstead.

The main sponsors for the day were Bartram Mowers, but we must not forget our other trade friends who are: Tomlinson Ground Care, Textron, Symbio, Aitkens, Headland, Consultant Clarkson, Atterton & Ellis, Ben Burgess, Rigby Taylor, Sisis, Scots, John Deere, Vitax, Bury Landscapes. Thank you all.

There were 64 playing and all enjoyed a lovely day. Thank you Diss Golf Club for your hospitality.

Before I go I must pass on our best wishes to Steve Millard and look forward to seeing him in the near future.

Mick Lathrope

## SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES

### South West

I had never played The Wiltshire before, but despite winding up Course Manager, Dominic Rogers, in this column in the month's leading up to our Invitation Tournament, I think I can safely say that he managed to hit all the targets.

The greens were indeed putting at nearly 12, even those that had been Drilled and Filled the day before - don't give it another thought Dominic. The rough was well pruned back which suits my game no end, but with hindsight, I should have asked for all the ponds to be drained, and the runway at nearby RAF Lyneham to be closed for the afternoon.

There was a certain novelty value when the first Hercules transport plane came roaring over so low that you could read the escape instructions on the cockpit door and wave to the driver. But the novelty soon wore off as a succession of other Hercules (or maybe it was the same one) continued circling and landing, sometimes with only three engines, all afternoon. As if that wasn't enough, a NATO Boeing 707 jet joined the party with a series of low passes. The noise from which was enough to strip all the enamel off your teeth.

Having said that we had an absolutely superb afternoon around this challenging course and we would like to pass on our thanks to Eddy Shah, the Owner, and all his staff.



Results were: 1. A. Knight and D. Harper, 45pts; 2. J. Coverdale and M. Wilkie, 43pts; 3. P. Havard and M. Rhodes, 41pts. Nearest the Pin, 4th hole. M. Samuels. Nearest the Pin, 7th hole. M. Sage.

Chatting to Dominic Rogers over dinner, he revealed that The Wiltshire is about to expand to 27 holes with the purchase of additional land adjacent to the 5th hole, and this was being drained ahead of construction later in the summer. The existing course will be revamped somewhat, and all in all he has a heavy workload in front of him.

Things were much quieter at Stinchcombe Hill Golf Club for the annual match against the Secretaries, although I would like to draw their attention to the length of the rough. The course on Stinchcombe Common dates from 1889 and is on a SSSI. The rough is taken for hay every year, but inevitably not until July, to help preserve the wild flora. You could tell at a glance who wasn't playing well - their trousers were soaking black and clinging to their legs.

Yours truly had a Committee meeting back at work and couldn't play, but I did manage to watch the first hole and couldn't help noticing that Chris Sealey was one of the only players to hit the fairway. Do you want the gory details? OK.

Craig Fudge was 30 yards right and lost, Wayne Vincent 20 yards right, John Keenaghan 10 yards left, John Byrne 10 yards left, Adam Matthews flirted with the rough in front of the tee and then went 20 yards left! Having spotted all these balls - my trousers were also black and clinging so I packed up and left.

Many thanks to Stinchcombe Hill GC and congratulations to the Secretaries, who tightened their stranglehold on the trophy with a 4-2 win. Apologies, the individual match results were not to hand at the time of writing.

Events coming up are the Summer Tournament at Long Ashton, July 21, and the evening at Bath Races on August 26. Remember, send £10 per person, partners welcome, to John Jarvis direct at Lansdown Golf Club to book your place. It should be a great evening out and a chance to forget all about golf just this once.

Congratulations to Dave Rosselli, First Assistant at Minchinhampton, and his wife, Jo, on the birth of their son, Harvey.

Finally, one of our senior members, who is a keen sports car fan, recently tripped a speed camera. Having six points already on his licence he decided, on receipt of the fixed penalty ticket, to claim that his wife was driving. He was rewarded a couple of days later with an enlarged photo from the camera clearly showing who was at the wheel, and an icily polite note from the prosecuting officer requesting that he confirm exactly who the driver was, as his wife appeared to be ugly, balding, with grey greasy hair and smoking a pipe! Game, set, and match to the constabulary.

Keep the information coming in. Tel: 07768 394593 or Email: paul.worster@tesco.net.

Paul Worster

## South Coast

I have yet another set of sad Section notes to write this month. Jim Arthur passed away on May 14 and will be missed enormously by his family, his friends and the greenkeeping industry. Jim was a remarkable man and Donald Steel said at his funeral: "There was no one quite like him." How true that is.

Jim promoted traditional greenkeeping for over 40 years, never once straying from the path of practices that he promoted so passionately and will be remembered for such wonderful phrases such as 'muck and magic' and 'bugs in a jug' among others. His passion for our industry never

wavered and he was a good friend but a fearful enemy who always spoke his mind as many of his adversaries could tell.

We were lucky to have Jim Chair our seminar in February where he was surrounded by his 'disciples' preaching from the Arthur 'gospel'. He rang me when he got home and said it had been the finest seminar he had ever been to, he was buzzing and was delighted to see that traditional greenkeeping was again being promoted. He celebrated that night with the usual gin and tonic! I will miss Jim and in particular the regular phone calls. The dialog was always started the same: "Hello Jim how are you?" The reply: "Don't ask!"

Donald Steel summed things up beautifully. If the grass is greener on the other side Jim will certainly be giving someone a hard time over it!

Onto lighter news and I would just like to wish Euan Grant and his team all the best for the upcoming Open Championship. This is the pinnacle of Euan's career and I'm sure he'll give us an Open to remember.

That's all the news for this month as I have promised not to take up too much room in the magazine. Don't forget to contact me if you have any news that you would like included in the Around the Green Section. My contact details are Tel: 01202 661106; Mobile: 07966 386232 or email me at a.mccombie@ntlworld.com.

Alex McCombie

## Devon & Cornwall

It is unfortunate that I have to report the death of Andrew Walker, who was an Assistant Greenkeeper at Ilfracombe Golf Club in North Devon, working under Richard Parker the Head Greenkeeper. Andrew, who was just 21, had worked on the course for some five years and just gained his NVQ11. Richard informed me that he worked hard, took a pride in his work and he will be sadly missed.

Congratulations go to Paul Newcombe, from East Devon Golf Club, and Adam Brigewater, from Yelverton Golf Club, who will be in the Devon County Team at Saunton for County week. Also Rob Cook, from Bowood Park Golf Club, who is in the Cornwall County team.

Good Luck to Ray Day, the Course Manager at Saunton Golf Club, who I know has worked very hard with his team to prepare the East and West Course to the best of their ability for County week.

If any Greenkeeper in the Section has any news of interest please do not hesitate to contact me. I will be more than happy to put any constructive news in my next report.

I hope you all have a good month and no hassle from Committees.

Donovan O Hunt - Events Coordinator

## South Wales

Sorry about the last month's Section notes, I missed the deadline. I promise it won't happen again as the Section Secretary will kicked my... I must also apologise to Gary Connell for getting his new wife's name wrong, sorry Nicola. You can imagine the grief he got from his missus wondering if he is a bigamist.

Very sad news to hear the loss of Jim Arthur, he attended our Section Seminar in April, I think it was his last public speaking engagement. Even in his late years there was no doubting his passion for greenkeeping and greenkeepers, he was in fine form and a number of bodies got it with two barrels.

Many thanks to Farmura International for sponsoring the seminar, also to the speakers for giving their time freely, making for a very good seminar. There was a good attendance also from Section members, 65 in all, considering it was the only dry day of the week. For more details of the Seminar see the News Section of the magazine.



The Rigby Taylor matchplay is under way, the draw is complete and the first round results should be coming in thick and fast. Good entry this year, sorry about the number of byes, only way it would work out.

Our first competition of the year has been held over the Southerdown (Links) course, with a good attendance. Many thanks to the club for allowing us to host our Spring Competition and to Gary Johnstone and his hard working staff for preparing the course. I must say it was in excellent condition, so early on in the season. I think Gary will get some stick from his staff as he had the lowest points out of them all.

Many thanks to Amenity Technology for sponsoring the Spring Competition and to David Evans for representing them and helping with the prize ceremony.

Winner of the Amtec Shield was one of Gary's Assistants, local boy Llewellyn Matthews (I hope that is spelt right), with a score of 38 points playing of a handicap of +2, a bit of a bandit. Runner-up, with a Stableford score of 34, was Russell Anderson, Cardiff. Third place, with a Stableford score of 33, was Alan Crichton. Trade prize, with a Stableford score of 36, was Adrian Masters. I don't know where that score came from but well done!

Hot of the press are the results from our Summer Competition, held over the very scenic Rhonda Golf club. Many thanks to the club for allowing us to host this fixture, thanks also to Ian Ellis and his staff for preparing the course to a very high standard indeed and if the golf was rubbish then the views were spectacular.

Big thank you to R. S Birds of Cowbridge, in particular Jeff Bird and Heather Brock for attending dinner and helping out with the presentation and for their continued support and sponsoring the day. The Birdie Cup has been running since 1960.

Results from the Summer Competition are as follows: Winner of the Birdie Cup, with a Stableford score of 37pts, was Russell Anderson, Cardiff. Runner-up, with a Stableford score of 34 on the back nine, was Andy Roach, Haverfordwest, and third place went to Meirion Griffiths, Carmarthen, with a Stableford score of 34pts also. Trade prize went to back-to-back winner Adrian Masters with 26pts. If anyone wants to buy a BIGGA tie, see Adrian.

Many thanks to Jim Mackenzie and Celtic Manor for donating a number of grass cutting machines to Pencoed College Bridgend, I am sure Paul Discome will put them to good use training the students.

Another date for the diary is the Pencoed College Open Day, it is on Saturday June 25 from 10am to 3pm. It will be a good day out for all the family. BIGGA South Wales will be putting on a stand and anyone wishing to help out would be appreciated.

Anything relating to the Section please get in touch with me or Peter Lacey. Tel: 07977 423571; email: agusmac07@aol.com.

Angus Macleod

## NORTHERN IRELAND

Well I hope everyone is enjoying the better weather that June had brought after a number of difficult weeks in May. Having spoken to a number of greenkeepers over the past few weeks, everyone is striving to get on top of the backlog of work that had accumulated with the wet weather.

I would like to welcome four new members to the Section this month. Stuart Glover, Aaron Fulton, Jonathon Burns and Terry Tennyson have joined from Lisburn GC.

Also well done to greenkeeper Noel Crawford, from Royal County Down GC, who completed this year's Belfast City Marathon. Noel raised £750 for Cerebral Palsy sufferer Claire Kyle. Once again, very well done Noel for your commitment in helping Claire.

Our latest golf competition, on May 26, at Fortwilliam GC, in Belfast, turned out to be a very enjoyable day. We were blessed with the best day of the month, with hot sun and just a moderate breeze. Course Manager, Michael O'Neill, and his greenkeeping team had the course in great condition, even with the wet weather on the days leading up to the competition. Local knowledge paid off on the day for Michael, who accumulated 37pts to lift the first prize.

Many thanks go to our sponsors, David Laird Grass Machinery and Sam Thompson, from Kubota Ireland. Lairds have always been very generous sponsors to our industry over the years. I would like to especially thank Martin Hinchey, from Lairds, our local Kubota dealer, and Sam Thompson, Area Manager for Kubota Ireland.

Results were: 1. Michael O'Neill, Fortwilliam GC, 37pts; 2. Eamonn Crawford, Royal Co Down GC, 35pts; 3. Noel Crawford, RCD, 33pts. Longest Drive. Eamonn Crawford. Nearest the Pin. D. Voyks, Fortwilliam GC. D. Voyks also won the visitors' prize with 39pts.

If only I could hit a straight ball off the tee I would have made the prizes this time. So I have decided to discard all my modern drivers and will reappeared with my wooden headed John Letters, made in Scotland, 20 year old driver for the next competition at Allen park on June 30. Tee time 1-2pm.

I remind members of the National Championship Qualifier to be played on August 9 at Royal County Down, with a 3pm tee time. Time is also approaching for Terry Crawford's Charity Golf Day at Clandeboye GC in early August. Please contact Terry for exact details as the date may have recently been brought forward.

Any news or views please get in touch on 94429001 during working hours.

Ken Henderson

## 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.



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As you may guess, the disease is named for the red, thread-like sclerotia that commonly develop at the ends of each blade of grass. In addition to developing 'red threads', the pathogen may also produce pink, cottony flocks of mycelium.

Red thread commonly occurs in the spring and autumn months. However, the disease may occur throughout the year following extended periods of rainy, overcast or foggy weather. The disease is most severe on poorly nourished stands of turf and applications of water-soluble nitrogen may help to reduce disease severity.

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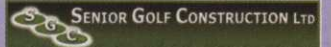
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