



It gives me great pleasure to welcome two new members to our Section, Ashley Merry (D.H.) of Evesham GC, and Daniel Totney (AG) from the lovely Sandwell Park GC. Also, all the best to Mike Hill on his retirement from Stourbridge. Mike has been a long time supporter of the Section, and has served many a fine course over his service within Greenkeeping. Wishing you all the best Sir, I hear that the shares at the Foley Arms have just gone up. See you in there chap.

It is with great pride that I am able to announce Mr Hill's successor will be Mr Beet at Stourbridge GC. Think that being a Deputy was a pain in the arse! The examination starts now (CMEGC). I'll let you now when I get there. Congratulations mate.

Don't forget to contact me with your "Excuse of the Month" or anything else on: 07908 421 015, or email: sean.mcdade@homecall.co.uk. The Hoff has a lot to answer to.

"Spot the Difference". It's Swaney. Congrat's on passing your chainsaw test mate. Well done.

Wishing all a very Merry Christmas.

Sean McDade

East of England

The Section AGM was held at Spalding GC, with a Texas Scramble being the format for the day. A draw for teams was made and we all set off to do battle. Firstly I must apologise to one of the boat owners on the second hole. I did not mean to broadside your vessel with a surface to air Proc V1, and I am sure a suitable salvage team can be arranged to raise her from the deep. The day was kindly sponsored by Burdens and our thanks go to Jim North for the prize table. The day was won by, yes you've guessed it, Les Howkins! Gary Cooper, Pete Fell and Ian Collett - I think we should rename 2006 as the Les Howkins year, seriously, well done mate - although our new Competitions Secretary will have to do some serious culling of your handicap, won't you Steve. I would also like to say a big thank you to spalding for the day. The course was in magnificent condition and the food was superb.

We then moved onto the AGM with no changes to the committee and it went through quite quickly. A few points were raised from the floor and hopefully answered to the member's satisfaction.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New

Allan Walker 07974816927

BB&O

November! I recently read this entertaining article on the difficulty of weather forecasting by Bob Ryan, of the Meteorological Society, so here goes. Imagine a rotating sphere that is 8000 miles in diameter, has a bumpy surface, is surrounded by a 30 mile deep mixture of different gases whose concentrations vary both spatially and over time, and is heated, along with its surrounding gases, by a nuclear reactor 93 million miles away. Imagine also that this sphere is revolving around the nuclear reactor and that some locations are heated more during one part of the revolution and other locations are heated during another part of the revolution. And imagine that this mixture of gases continually receives inputs from the surface below, generally calmly but sometimes through violent and highly localized injections. Then, imagine that after watching the gaseous mixture, you are expected to predict its state at one location on the sphere one, two, or more days into the future. This is essentially the task encountered day by day by a weather forecaster, and then there is the Greenkeeper?

Welcome aboard to Paul Riching, the new Course Manager for Wexham Park GC - who has recently taken over from Roy Kates. Paul is looking forward to his challenging role maintaining this parkland golf course in Slough, Berkshire. Roy where are you? Don't forget to keep in touch!

A big character and a big farewell goes to Toro representative the unmistakable John Cockburn who, after over 20 years service with A T Oliver, has retired, John will be looking forward to relaxing and rebuilding his boat, so from all the boys in red, green and orange that you have dealt with over many years, wishing you the very best and have a superb retirement!

The Rigby Taylor Pairs final was hosted at the exclusive Bearwood Lakes GC in Berkshire and competing for the title were Steve Horwood and Miles Wood from Chiltern Forrest GC, and Matt Smith and Simon Mallock from Sonning GC. Congratulations to the Hearted Hoofs, from Sonning, who hammered the elderly Team Forrester with an impressive five and four, also Course Manager Dan Lightfoot and his team for arranging a memorable day for the finalists at Bearwood Lakes GC and Gareth, the RT man, for organising this yearly popular event.

Just another reminder that BTME is only a month away, if you have never been before or haven't frequented the show for some time, I ask you to give it a another thought as the Greenkeeping profession make there way to Harrogate for a greater learning experience and a chance to see what the industry has to offer at first hand, so down your tools and come along to what will be a great show in the heart of Yorkshire.

The BB&O mums have been very busy in the Section, some of the biggest ever Christmas presents have arrived early, so here goes and let's hope I get the spelling right, firstly Madeleine Ava was born to proud parents Steve and Abi Gardener, from Flackwell Heath GC, followed by Harriett Florence Rose to Dan Lightfoot, from Bearwood Lakes GC and yet more news as Lee Bishop, from Burnham Beeches GC, has been extremely busy as wife Jo has given birth to twins, Archie and Max, who have only just arrived. Best wishes and congratulations to you all.

Finally! From all the serving BB&O Committee and your Chairman, Sid Arrowsmith, have a great December and fantastic Christmas.



Harrogate 2007

Symbio have kindly agreed to arrange a coach to travel up to Harrogate on January 23, returning on the 24th. Stopping at various pick up points around the M25 on the way, travel will be free of charge - courtesy of Symbio. Some seats will be available for first time visitors to the exibition up to the posistion of deputy, for which the South East Region will contribute towards overnight accomodation.

Please contact Martin Ward on: 07956 898004/martin@symbio.co.uk or Clive Osgood on: 07841 948410/cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk for more information.

South East Regional Seminar

Despite a sudden drop in temperature and one of the highest tides of the season over 100 were in attendance for the South East Regional Seminar held at the Thorpeness Country Club on the east coast of Suffolk on November 1.

Following a welcome and introduction by Chairman Ian Willett our Chief Executive, John Pemberton, gave a very informative presentation about The Association past, present, and future with particular regard to the need for all members to support Harrogate 2007. This was followed by Ray Harding, Ecologist to the award whining Thorpeness GC illustrating some of the good work being carried out by Ian and his team at the Club. Dr Kate Entwistle was next with valuable state of the art information on Turf Diseases name changes included! Kate also spent time discussing the increasing problems, some superficial, caused by Nematodes at various sites around UK.

After refreshment at lunch it was time for the duo of Billy and Ian McMillan, who involved the floor in discussion on current topics including thought issues in the south and in particular Sustainable Golf, a subject that probably could have gone on long into the night if allowed. John Grindrod, of Econoplas, was next who talked about recycled products useful to the Golf Industry. The day was rounded off by David Stansfield who gave us a very interesting presentation on some of the course renovation, general revamping and upgrading projects he has been involved with on courses in the UK and Europe

In conclusion after questions time, the Chairman thanked everybody for their participation on the day, and expressed the Region's thanks to the Sponsors of the Seminar, listed below, who as always were most generous

The South East Region Seminar 2006 Sponsors were, Aitkens, Barenburg, Collier Turf Care, Headland, Lely UK, Rigby Taylor, Scotts, Sheriff Amenity, Tacit, Tower Chemicals.

Clive Osgood, Regional Administrator

Surrey

Sunday, November 5. Bonfire night. The ghost of Guy Fawkes is wandering the dark cellars beneath the Houses of Parliament. He has found the stash of gunpowder he and his fellow conspirators placed there several hundred years ago. Up above in the main chamber a security guard is smoking a cigarette while leaning against a no smoking sign, completely unaware that far below a ghost has, since 1605, year after year, mislaid his tinder box and would have given a whole week's wages for a loan of the guard's box of matches.

So much for history, back to the present and our boys have once again donned their football kit, kindly sponsored by ETT, and taken to the field of battle on home ground at Colliers Wood. John Jennings and Adam Watt were the scoring stars in the 2-1 victory against the London Section. John Ross, our Section Secretary, was, I am reliably informed, dressed to kill in a pair of shorts that only just covered his ref's whistle.

You have probably realised that I was not present at the aforementioned football match for I was on holiday in Canada. The Rocky Mountains were spectacular and the Rocky Mountaineer train journey through them awe inspiring. They had a poem writing competition on the train and the winner was awarded the Order of the Salmon. As this is a slow news month, here's my entry, entitled Boys' Weekend Away.

I thought I'd swim up from the sea, yes me a handsome he-fish I'm swimming up with other guys, and we're looking for some she-fish. We're going back for old times, sake, the journey is worth doing when we arrive and meet the gals it's time to start a-wooing I'll flick my tail and flash my gills to show I'm in condition, so line up chicks, it's time for love, the end of my sex mission.

But now I lie upon my back, my hold on life is loose when I come back in my next life, my choice - you've guessed - A MOOSE.

So much for love in the river, here's love on dry land. Nigel Morris, Deputy at Epsom GC, married Emma on October 21 at Gatton Manor Hotel and Golf

Club. Their daughter Jodie was Bridesmaid. Congratulations and best wishes to you three.

After Canada we flew to Hawaii, one of a group of islands in the North Pacific discovered by Capt, Cook in 1778. Geography and history in one sentence. I only mention this because I survived the 2006 earthquake in Hawaii. The full story when next we meet.

Brian Willmott Order of the Salmon. Email brian.willmott@hotmail.co.uk

Kent

Welcome to another fun packed edition of your Kent news.

A couple of people moving on to tell you about first of all. Two of my guys at Birchwood Park have decided to move on to pastures new. Richard Burgess has taken up the vacant Deputy Course Manager's role at West Hove GC in Sussex and Gary Jessop has moved down the road to further his training at The London Club. Best wishes to both of them in their new positions.

Our monthly winter seminars are in full swing now at Hadlow College and the next one is on December 12 between 10am and 4pm. The topic for this one will be "Pre-Stress Management of Turf" which shall deal with how to manage your swards effectively when heading for the inevitable droughts. These sessions are completely free of charge and anyone from any Section is more than welcome to attend.

Not much else to tell you about this month other than to tell you that in next month's report there will be news on our AGM and Turkey Trot results. Also who came out triumphant in our long awaited football re-match with Sussex Section.

Merry Christmas one and all. **Rob Holland**

East Anglia

Our small, but perfectly formed band, (40ish) made our way to the City of Ely GC. Nice place, well kept by Andrew Baker and his men.

First we were warmly welcomed by a bacon roll and a cup of coffee, then off we strolled through the rough to battle out the prizes and silverware.

The overall winner was Norman Fenwick with 37 pts; 2. Chris O'Dowd, 35 pts; 3. Mark Henderson, 35 pts.

10-18 Section - 1. Glen Rayfield, 34 pts; 2. Ed Webster, 33 pts; 3. David Farmer, 32 pts. 19-28 Section - 1. David Driver, 35 pts; 2. Mick Lathrope, 27 pts; 3. Richard Mitchell, 27 pts - (two up and coming young men to look out for).G & T Section - 1. Mark Keysell, 37 pts; 2. Stuart Robson, 35 pts - (he knows all the George Formby songs and he's got a whippet!)

Mark Clements won the putting competition; Longest Driver was Ed Webster and Nearest the Pin was Stuart (Mr Banjo) Robson.

The loo seat was presented to Ian Willett for breaking two trolleys. They don't make them like they used to!

The main sponsors were Tomlinson Ground Care (complete with a dog wearing a John Deere cap) and John Deere.

Other sponsors are as follows: Aitkins; Atherton and Ellis; Bartram Mowers; Collier Turf Care; Consultant Clarkson; Headland Turf; Lely UK; Midlube; Rigby Taylor; Sherriff; Sisis; Tacit and Textron.

Thanks once again to the Club Captain, Martin Bright and all at the City of Ely Golf Club, for a smashing day out.

November 1 saw the South East Regional Seminar held at Thorpeness Country Club. Our very own Ian Willett is the Chairman and his first big event went very well with some excellent speakers taking part.

The proceedings were opened by John Pemberton, top brass from BIGGA, on 'The Way Forward for the Association', with obvious concerns about BTME.

This was followed by Ray Harding, the ecologist to the award winning Thorpeness GC, with very interesting views on achieving an area of cohabitation between golfers and wildlife - something we should all be striving

Then came Kate Entwistle, on turf diseases. Fusarium is no more! Well that's not quite true, they just changed the name to Constantinople.

After lunch Billy and Ian McMillan, who came in at the last moment, gave an interesting talk on drought and sustainable golf. Made you think a bit.

Now here is a challenge. Stand up and talk to a room of hardened greenkeepers about drainage. John Grindrod, of Econplas, did it, recycling products to make drainage tiles for bunkers etc. Worth looking into.



David Stansfield rounded the day off with an agronomist's view of course renovation. Very interesting, ask Norman!

There were also some trade stands from our sponsors: Aitkens; Collier Turf Care; Tower Chemicals; Scotts; Rigby Taylor; Tacit; Barenburg; Sherriff (2f's); Headland and Lely UK; where you could have a friendly chat and put the world right.

Our thanks once again to Thorpeness Country Club for an excellent venue and hospitality and to Ian for his excellent organisation.

All those who took part deserve a pat on the back. There were a few empty seats but I'm sure they will all be at Harrogate to give the Association the support it needs in this current climate.

Mick Lathrope



Harrogate Week 2007

The South West and South Wales Region are once again offering members a three-night bed and breakfast package to Harrogate, staying at The Cairn Hotel, arriving on Monday, January 22, departing Thursday, January 25. The cost for this package to BIGGA members is: Single room, £216 per person; Twin room for single occupancy, £240 per person; Numbers are limited and places should be reserved before sending your booking form and payment.

The Region is also offering a package for the Educational Seminars taking place. Members can book all seven seminars at a cost of £105 - this being a total saving of 40%. This saving can only be obtained by booking through me. Should you wish to book individual seminars, this must be done through Sami Collins at Headquarters and the cost will be discounted on a scale according to the number booked.

All bookings both for accommodation and seminars, must be made and confirmed with payment by Friday, December 15.

Booking forms and details will be sent to Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers in October. Should anyone not receiving this information and wishing to book, please contact me on Tel: 01454 270850 or mobile: 07841 948110.

Jane Jones, Regional Administrator

South West

Scary to think that this comes out just before Christmas. The year has gone so quickly, so a huge thank-you to all our committee members who made it all work, and to all the clubs and greenkeepers who made our golf days so enjoyable and educational. Thanks once again also to our Patronage Partners -Messers MJ Abbott, Amenity Technology, BS Mowers, Bredy Irrigation, Tower Chemicals, Irritech, Rigby Taylor, Symbio, Rufford, Avoncrop Amenity, and Countrywide Farmers, your sponsorship has made the Section tick - most important. Remember, places at BTME are up for grabs as a result of this sponsorship - write to: Nobby Knight, 17 St Marys Gardens, Hilperton March, Trowbridge, Wilts, BA14 7PG, and let him know why you deserve the place and what you hope to gain from the experience.

A total of 42 members attended the AGM at Ogbourne St George in October. Yours truly had to give his apologies and hang his head in shame - so no full report this time, but grateful thanks to Nick Pusey and his team for presenting the course in such great order, and to Ogbourne for their hospitality. New for next year on our committee is an assistant secretary, Roger Neale, who will hopefully be able to help in keeping contact with everyone to improve attendances at Section events. Other changes are Wayne Vincent, as Match Captain, and Shaun Richards, as Vice Captain, and Robin Greaves co-opted on.

Back at Minch, the lake and irrigation system installation is in full swing. MJ Abbott have about 15 guys on site - cutting the trenches looks absolutely brutal, but the backfill team are so skilled and dedicated, that after a couple of weeks you can literally hardly see where they've been. So skilled in fact, that we've hardly lost a single member down any of the holes. Kevin Green's lake however is another matter, you can most certainly see where that is. 7850 cubic metres of rock coming out of it and being landscaped into mounds - you can see where they are as well. Our guys are doing the re-topsoiling and seeding so plenty to do there. Getting guite good with a five tonne Takeuchi only another 5000 cubes and the rest of my life to go. I'm certainly looking forward to the New Year, and switching on my new irrigation next June and seeing something actually work properly for a change. Incidentally, we have a good supply of used nearly-new Tonic Decoders, Logic impact drive sprinklers, and a TW2 with remote - if anyone is interested for spares, give me a shout. Fixtures will be out soon - dates for your 2007 diary so far are as follows, with special thanks to Roger Davey, Jon Jarvis, and Marc Haring for their ideas and offers.

At Stockwood Vale on February 22 is the winter competition and Roger Davey's lecture on Water use; At Cotswold Hills on April 25 is the spring tournament; At Enmore Park on May 17 is Greenkeeper Amateur; Race Night takes place in June - (date from Jon Jarvis); At Cumberwell Park on July 25 is the Summer Tournament and Marc Haring's quiz night; At Farrington Gurney on September 13 is a Match vs South Coast and at Minchinhampton New on October 11, the AGM will take place.

If anyone is interested in hosting a 2008 tournament, or has any local news for this column - please let me know. In the meantime, I'll close by wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Paul Worster paulw@mgcnew.co.uk 01453 837355.

South Coast

Congratulations to ME! At last, I am a Daddy. Rowan Charles Crawley came into this world on October 29, 2006 at 5.27am, weighing in at 8lbs 12oz. Mother and son are doing fine. We are overjoyed and may I say a big thank you to everyone who has been enquiring as to the event. Sorry it was a bit late (eight days overdue) but all very much worth it.

Our autumn tournament was held at Corhampton GC on Thursday, October 12. As usual, mother nature blessed us with a beautiful, dry day. Excellent conditions for a day's golf. The course was in excellent condition and our gratitude goes to Mike Smith, the Course Manager, and his staff for their hard work in preparing the course for our Section. Thank you also to all the staff at Corhampton GC for making us feel very welcome, especially to the catering staff, providing well earned nourishment. As usual, huge appreciation to Rigby Taylor, our Sponsors for the day.

Results were as follows: 1.1 Alan Magee, 37 pts; 1.2 Bill Davis, 34 pts; 2.1 Chris Taplin, 43 pts; 2.2 Kevin Glass, 38 pts; 3.1 Phil Bennett, 39 pts, 3.2 David Miles, 37 pts; Longest Drive - Nick Reynolds and Nearest the Pin - Andy McDonald.

The AGM was held after the day's golf, and all went smoothly and to plan with no major issues. Once again, major tribute must be paid to your hardworking committee for their efforts during the year.

If you get your issue in time, the Turkey Trot, is at Weybrook Park GC on December 6. Please contact Chris Sturgess on: 02380 492084 Mob: 0777313 8409 - after 8pm for more details.

On the subject of Golf Days, I have next year's fixtures: Spring Tournament -Romsey GC - May 3, 2007; Summer Tournament - Andover GC - Tuesday, July 3 2007; Autumn Tournament - North Hants GC - October, 23 2007 and Winter Tournament - TBA.

The South West match will be at Farrington Gurney GC on September 13, 2007 and the Scotts/BIGGA will be held at Stoneham GC on May 31, 2007.



The South Coast Seminar, which Chris Bitten is organising, is taking shape and once again looks to be a fascinating and informative day. Details will soon be distributed to the membership. If you've not been to this event before, I strongly recommend attendance.

We would like to wish the very best to Spencer Haynes, who is leaving Hartley Wintney GC to go on to pastures new, maintaining peoples' lawns and passing on his great experience and knowledge to the domestic market. To both Spencer and his family, our very best wishes for the future and we hope to see you at future golf days.

Well that's it folks for this month. All I need to do now is to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year. I am now off to go and change a nappy!

Joe Crawley

Devon & Cornwall

Well, our season of meetings has commenced for the 2006/2007 year, the first one was held at Launceston GC on Wednesday, October 11 - which was our AGM. As you will all know by now, at the request of HQ, we have been asked to bring our AGM forward a month compared with previous years. This has not really caused any problems other than the fact that a good many greenkeepers were still finishing their autumn maintenance programme work, which meant that our attendance was rather on the low side compared with past years, however, 45 members attended.

The day commenced with a golf competition sponsored by D O Hunt and Roffeys. The format was a Stableford and in spit of very heavy rain over night - nearly 50mm - the course was in fantastic condition thanks to all the hard work by Grame Gallimore, the Head Greenkeeper and his staff.

The winners were as follows: 1 - Chris Pearson, Newquay GC, 39pts (h/cap 3); 2 - Brian Ridgway, Fingle Glen GC, 36pts (h/cap 14); 3 - Gavin Moore, Launceston GC, 35pts (h/cap 12).

Having indulged in a superb lunch, the afternoon proceedings commenced with the AGM, followed by the prize presentation. We were all pleased to welcome Jane Jones, our Regional Administrator, and of course, our National Chairman, Richard Whyman. The meeting lasted 45 minutes and there were no problems. What really pleased me was that we had some very constructive questions and suggestions from members, which will be on the agenda for our next Section committee meeting, held at Trenhorne GC in November.

At the request of our National Chairman - RE: Having younger members on the Section Committee - it was decided and approved to co-opt Abi Crosswood, from Newquay GC, onto the committee. I am sure you will have read about Abi in Greenkeeper International recently, she was runner-up in the Toro Student of the Year competition. Hopefully Abi will add some constructive ideas to our meetings.

I would like to take this opportunity to correct a mistake in this year's diary, the meeting at St Enodoc is to be held on Wednesday, March 14, 2007 - not Friday as printed.

Last but not least, the Christmas dinner will be at Okehampton GC on Tuesday, December 12, you all know it is very popular, so once you have received your form, please return post haste.

See you all soon and good luck. Donovan O Hunt Administrator

CHECK OUT THE EVENTS PAGE ON THE BIGGA WEBSITE FOR AN UP TO DATE LIST OF ALL THE HAPPENINGS IN YOUR SECTION AND REGION.

From Tournaments to Seminars, AGM's to Dinners it's all covered at www.bigga.org.uk.

If you have a BIGGA event that you wish to place on the Events Page contact Melissa at BIGGA HOUSE on melissa@bigga.co.uk or 01347 833800

SECTION NOTES INFORMATION

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

Word limit for Section notes: 500-600.

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 HQ.



CROSSWORD

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SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



ANAGRAM

DEMONS JAB ANSWER: James Bond

A QUICK NINE HOLES

- 1. Saturn
- 2. Andy Cole
- 3. Ouse
- Raymond Floyd
- 5. Klaxon
- 6. Liam Plunkett
- 7. Lawrence Dallaglio
- 8. Rosie
- 9. Sumo Wrestling

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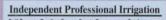
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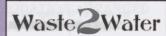
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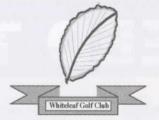
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