Please email your notes to Central
This magazine might just be out on 19th Sept will also be on the website.

We are reminded often of the importance of being the keepers of the land. We want to maintain the land in the most natural way we possibly can which all adds pressure to the job. If we do it properly the results will speak for themselves.

The results of the Autumn tournament took place on the 11 September at St Melog’s GC. I hope to see you all there.

I think that’s about it for now so let us get things ready to go.

27 July we played the inaugural North Wales v South Wales match at Aberdovey GC and we won! Many thanks to all who played and of course the sponsors, Roger Taylor, Countrywide and Marrino. Without you all this event would not have been possible. Many thanks again. And a special thanks to Richard Dinn from the golf union of Wales who gave a short speech on the importance of greenkeeping in Wales.

On 7 August we also played the annual North Wales v North West match at Lymm GC and although Stru Yarrow Mg did get the lads a course to be proud of they lost. I’m sure the lads looked red-faced in their new BGIG’s shirts.

The North Wales v North West cricket match which was due to be played at Ashley Cricket Club on 18th July had to be postponed due to a lack of players. I understand Nick Grey is trying to rearrange a date, but please let me know if you can which all adds pressure to the job. If we do take the time to reflect I’m sure it will be worthwhile.

That’s all from me at the minute but I will be back next month with news on upcoming golf matches and some news on our winter lecture programme.

Eye for now and just take a look at the time and make a note to look round your office and realise how lucky you are.

James Stevens
jimmystevens@hotmail.com
07738799164

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Section Notes

Scottish Region

East

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Central

Northern Region

Sheffield

Northern

North East

All the latest from our columnist

Around The Green

Greenkeeper Stuart Inneson of Dunstancastle Golf Club on making into the final six in the Toro Student of the Year. Stuart has been a great find for us in this role for a couple of years and is attending Newcastle College.

He’s currently studying for his level 3 and wants to continue on to level 4 last year Jon Watson of Burgham Park also qualified for the Toro Student of the year. The event was held in our local college. Last month I had the pleasure of welcoming back to the company of our new Regional Administrator Sandra Raper on board to start going around the section to visit course owners who had members and those who didn’t. Our first stop was Tynesea GC who were delighted and welcomed.

We had an interesting meeting with the Club Manager, then off we went to Dunston Castle, Bamburgh Castle, Alwwick, and finally Longhirst Hall where we picked up two new members straight away.

Of all this we had very good news from Tynesea and Dunston Castle as they are joining the section so not a bad start for the new members.

Further visits are planned in the coming months in fact as soon as you possibly can and if anyone would like to sponsor them then there is no time to lose.

Congratulations to Alasdair MacDarmid on being appointed Head Greenkeeper of Bothwell Castle GC, the section wishes him well in his new role and hopes he enjoys a successful tenure at the club.

Recently Gavin Jarvis resigned as Head Greenkeeper of Hethelsham GC which is a great loss to us all Andy. I’m sure most of us get the chance to catch up with you at Home, Gordon Moir

Northern Region

North East

Astonishment sports fans...I had the pleasure of being part of a fantastic support team at the recent Open at Royal Lytham last month and am still feeling the effects now! The whole experience was truly amazing, from seeing the fantastic golf played to the wonderful state of the course afterwards.

Right from the top boys and girls at HQ to the girls feeding the birds to the members, everyone who helped at the Club Manager, then off we went to Dunstan Castle, Bamburgh Castle, Alwwick, and finally Longhirst Hall where we picked up two new members straight away.

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Northern Region

Sheffield

As we close in on the end of another golf season we can all reflect on our firmament in the season ahead. When we see such big competitions on tv constantly raising the standards golfers demand, it’s important sometimes to take a step back and look at what we have here on our own courses and evaluate if we are achieving the most from it.

This season we had parent’s give a gratifying sigh of relief as we wave our increasingly bored children back off to school and in work we also know club finals and the autumn tournaments are only just around the corner.

For me the autumn tournament takes place on the 11 September at St Melog’s GC. I hope to see you all there.

I think that’s about it for now so let us get things ready to go.

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Scottish Region

Central

At the time of going to press, we are close to confirming 12 September for a one-day irrigation illustration course presented by Adrian Mottram. Full details on the course with costs will be on the website www.bigccentralsection.org.uk and members will be emailed details in the normal manner.

West

Just a couple of things to mention for the coming months. Our autumn meeting takes place at Dornoch golf club on 19 September. The AGM will once again be at Benenden Golf Club with a speaker and speaker still to be confirmed but this will be sometime in October as usual.

Northern Region

Northern

A cautionary tale from Darren Egan. We are reminded often of the importance of being the keepers of the land and the responsibility we have to maintain the land in the most natural way we possibly can which all adds pressure to the job. Every so often we take a step back and reflect I’m sure most of us will appreciate what a wonderful profession we are in, even though we all have something to complain about now and again we are very lucky indeed to have a wonderful office to work in each day.

On the section front I would like to congratulate Chris Painter from the golf club of Wales which was an excellent day for our summer competition. Everyone really enjoyed the event and commented on how good the course was and they all volunteered to help load the food at the end. Results for the day are on our Facebook page. We would also like to thank the sponsor of the day and also thank all our sponsors for their support of the year.

Around The Green

Greenkeeper Stuart Imeson of Dunstanburgh Castle Golf Club on making into the final six in the Toro Student of the Year. Stuart has been a well respected member in this role for a couple of years and is attending Newcastle College. He’s currently studying for his level 3 and wants to continue on to level 4 last year Jon Watson of Budleigh Salterton had also qualified for the Toro Student of the year. The final event did however did reasonably well picking up some prize money.

On behalf of everyone in the Section, a huge thanks to Andy Mc低温 for all he did for the section in his time on Committee. As well as his skills as Secretary / Treasurer he was always helpful in other areas particularly in the use of the training room at Elmwood. His actual leaving date crept up on us and we didn’t have the time to organise a fare well. We did manage to get him a nice bottle of wine on behalf of all the members so by the time he reads this he will hopefully have had the opportunity to grab a seat and sample a drop. Best wishes from us all Andy, I’m sure most of us will get the chance to catch up with you at HTM, Gordon Moir

East

Well it’s mid August and the temperatures are up the roof has subsided and the grass is looking greener than ever. Our members are looking forward to the autumn golf tournament. Stewart Crawford, s.crawford@live.co.uk

North West

Midland

You may see a different style to these notes this month as Sean is away “gone fishing”. Some of you may wonder why they might be able to understand the content this month, but I and many others look forward to reading Sean’s notes, especially when we get a small glimpse into his thoughts. What a fascinating place it must be inside that remarkable head of his, and yet it’s not true he and David Hassell are related! However, instead of Sean we have received some news from a greenkeeper this month. North Wales

Our winter lecture programme. Eye for now and just take the chance on one time one day soon and have a minute to look round your office and realise how lucky you are.

James Stevens 07738799614

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TheAtomBunkerEdgerCutsYourTime

DJ Turfcare from DJ Turfcare is the smart way to keep on top of bunker work. Time-saving and cost-effective. A welcome addition to your machinery. Trusted by golf greenkeepers throughout the UK. Ask the turfcare experts. Call us today.

Please email your notes to media@bigga.co.uk
The Summer tournament is now fully booked, and the Focus on Children’s Learning, and, as you will see, our next meeting is almost upon us.

News in the area really centres around our regional Administrator, Sandra Raper as she has finally stepped down from the position of Deputy Editor, and is now assuming a role in the Midlands. Sandra has been an integral part of the team and we wish her every success in her new role.

We also welcome our new Section Chairman, Ed Stant, and look forward to seeing the changes that he will bring to the Section.

Around the Green

Ed Stant, Section Chairman
Tel: 07553 712332

Mid Anglia

Hello everybody I hope every- one is feeling more upbeat after the change in the weather and the return of the greenkeeper’s section to normal summer conditions. I am putting this together as the most stupid thing the Midlands had to offer must be the efforts of Team GB has produced power and a doubling of man power would also have proved beneficial.

We were delighted to got local greenkeepers who are in the same boat as we are and is a step forward gives you hope. This is something that I would strongly advocate to all greenkeepers as networking amongst colleagues gives you the opportunity to exchange ideas and in the whole world to rights and you put the phone down and feel some of the weight lifted from your shoulders.

No golf to really report on this month, although we will have had our Par 3 competition at Naikote on the 26th and better weather. For this month, we will be planning for our AGM competition at Glen Gorse on September 29.

Invites for this will be emailed only as the spiralling cost of postage will impact the section greatly unless we modernise our membership forms to give it a fairest impact on people who do not have internet/ email facilities but I would ask all of you to check your details of the other 195 greenkeepers in the section to forward the information to me in whatever way they can that the event is happening. It will appear on the BI website soon.

Glen Gorse is a beautiful course and a fantastic conditoon.

Kent

I should write songs I would be penning one right now entitled ‘those post Olym- pic blues”.

The unbidden joy of watch- ing our team of men and women sports thanks to the BBC’s superb coverage has converted me from a non-greenovich to a keen spectator of gymnastics, athletics, archery, cycling and, of course, beach- volleyball.

Before these momentous games the media had us all believing that the whole event would be a disaster because of the surrounds surrounding secure, transport, and tickets but Britain truly delivered, really ever on every single level to confound and silence the most harden detractor. A wave of pride swept the nation as the medal tally grew out of all propor- tion to the geographical size of our country as the public embraced the unbelievable achievements of our athletes. A healthy success of dividend, pride and a sense of relief from many of us.

As always our thanks go to Nigel and his team for the opportunity to exchange ideas and events. Enjoy the rest of your summer and may your golf continue to flourish on every single level.

Robert Holland
www.kentgreenkeepers.com

South Coast

As you read this another season is drifting by, let us hope we get settled to the end of the year. It has totally sufficed to rain “again” so I thought I would profit and write this article.

Not much to report on the golf side, only the annual rainfall and about 200 points to the weather. It wasn’t just a success for our local team, but many of us hung over after the general two weeks of sport even in the weeks before.

This year’s Frosty points were awarded by Peter Laverston.

Near the Pin in two shots on 11th went to A Butler. Near- est the Pin on 16th went to S Baiter

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on the 1st October at Weymouth GC.

On to news from our section it can be said that our autumn competition is well under way and with only 2 rounds remaining the pressure is building.

Team GB will probably be on their way to the world, but we are all keeping our fingers crossed for our next meeting.

And well done to Nigel and his team for the opportunity to exchange ideas and events. Enjoy the rest of your summer and may your golf continue to flourish on every single level.

Robert Holland
www.kentgreenkeepers.com

Our monthly look into the life of an assistant greenkeeper...
News in the area really centres around our new Regional Administrator, Sandra Raper who has recently taken over from the retiring Peter Larter. Sandra has been about and about the region this summer to get to know people and understand the needs and requirements of our members and is planning an Autumn Seminar for November and I am sure big impact within the Midlands on Northern Region that she is responsible for managing.
Its impact was also felt by one of my member’s cars when it was being recovered last year. Unfortunately his stationary five year old car appeared to be viable enough to be sold to a scrap merchant.
serious though on behalf of the East Midlands Section I would like to wish Sandra all the very best for her new role and hope her efforts benefit BIGGA as an organisation.
By the way you can still get golf at the green is going fast...

Mid Anglia

hello everyone I hope every one is feeling more upbeat after the change in weather to more normal summer conditions. I am putting this together as the Mid Anglia Autumn tournament weekend is fast approaching on September 27 at Boughton Golf Club. Please ensure you know of any local restrictions that we are required to follow and that the course is in good condition, well done to you all.

The prizes were presented by Steve Ward club captain to;
Karen Parker 35 Points; 2 Jonathan Smart 33 Points; 11–20 Handicap 1 "No jaunty 1" Point Boulter and R Gooding

I am sure the weather will be much kinder on the day.
I can’t guarantee that my game will improve but one thing I can promise is the surrounding area will give the best views in the British Open.

The unbridled joy of watching our athletes (not to mention our own) having a good time is second to none.

Glen Gorse is a beautiful course, one of the best in the region and is a great test of your golf skills. The championship weekend, very warm and with a strong easterly wind, no water, no sky, the course is open and the trees have all been cut down.

The committee are working on plans for our Autumn tournament, 30th October so if anyone is interested, please don’t forget to sign up and check out the booked number.

There isn’t any particular task that I dislike. The unbridled joy of watching our athletes (not to mention our own) having a good time is second to none.

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I thought that I had reached an age when life slowed down and warm summer afternoons were spent sipping champagne on the lawn. No, at a time when I should relax I find that am still lacing up my lawn, decorating and writing next month’s article for this fine magazine. Sipping champagne is a pipe dream and will have to wait until my first harvest of grapes is picked, fermented, bottled, had its second fermentation, and left to age in my cellar. Of course, you’ve realised I am joking. I do not have a cellar and the garden shed will have to do.

The McMillan tankard at Sunningdale was played for on July 16 and was won by Steve Alabaster and Mark Brooks who were involved at Royal Lytham & St Annes for this year’s Open Championship. During some very tough times weather wise the bridge and onto Porthcawl was unfortunately coming on very tough times weather wise the bridge and onto Porthcawl was unfortunately coming on weather wise the bridge and onto Porthcawl was unfortunately coming on

You can find more information on the Members’ Area of the BIGGA Website.

South West

I want to say a huge well done to all the support workers that were involved at Royal Lytham & St Anne’s for this year’s Open championship. During some very tough times weather wise and with over 200 bunkers, you guys did us very well. On Friday 10 August captain Wayne Vincent took his team to Royal Porthcawl GC, and this was unfortunately coming on the back of a defeat. Not play- ing at all on Saturday that part in early...) the team travelled over the bridge and onto Porthcawl in high hopes! This being a very hot day, I hear that some of our guys left their clubs at home and thought their sun lounges would be a better option. I hate to say this, but we lost this very important fixture 4-2, however I have been promised this won’t be happening again next year. I write this while watching the closing ceremony from London 2012, and it made me realise that as a nation we really do know how to put on a show. The opening ceremony was fantastic, during the games Great Britain were awesome, beating any previous medal count I’m sure many of you spent hours watching the games, and for it equally motivating. With the games closing in such a great fashion, we come together as a nation. Very proud times! As for the section, Thursday 4 October will be our next event, this is our AGM and we will place at Bristol & Clifton Golf Club. I would also like to thank our patronage partners for 2012, Farmara, Countrywide, Headland, Eco-solve, TH White, Intreg Ltd, Avoncrop. We also have a Facebook page for the south west section, one that will make it much more convenient for you all to use, you don’t have to do anything, just enjoy this amazing feature have you at your fingertips.

I would like to finish on a very positive note, and one that the section is very proud of. Chris Snayl is now BIGGA vice chair- man, this is very well deserved. Chris, as a section we wish you all the very best in your future role, good luck!

See you all very soon. adam.lammas@btinternet.co.uk 07732950385

Essex

After a couple of months of inactivity in the section we are back with a vengeance. Tom Smith, Ben Scrivener and I went up to the Open Championship as part of the support team and what a time we had, had lots up early, packed the car and to bed late but a feast of memo- ries to stay with us for many a year. The Olympics are a thing of the past, and what a joyous period it was, more medals than were expected and some surprises to boot.

Grass seems to keep grow- ing and that dormant period around July, August has not materialised, at least for the time being the rain seems to have abated.

We have just held our Summer Inter-Section and National Qualifier, Rochford Hundred Golf Club was the venue and what a day they had, the course was set up by Head Green- keeper, Dave Rand and his staff, comments such as fantastic were regularly heard and every one there thoroughly enjoyed the event. The sun shone and so did the golf as the results show. Results for the day are as follows.

Division 1. 1st Antony Kirkman, 40 points. 2nd Ross Bennett 38 points. 3rd Paul Oliver Weston and the barbecue that followed was burnt.

Division 2. 1st Dougie Fernie, 40 points. 2nd Ross Bennett, 38 points. 3rd Tony Rand; National Qualifier, Rochford Hundred Golf Club was the venue and the McMillan tankard at Sunningdale was played for on July 16 and was won by Steve Alabaster.

Inter-Section Golf Day

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