SOUTHEAST GOLF DAY

Play unfortunately had to be abandoned due to incessant rain on the Old Course at Walton Heath – but the terrible weather did not dampen spirits at the South East Golf Day.

Despite the great efforts and hard work by Alan Brenchan and his team to prepare the Old Course, heavy overnight rain followed by more rain during the day forced members and guests of the course. They took refuge from the elements and enjoyed the refreshments kindly provided by Johnny Beck and James Watson of Sherffin Amenity at the 11th hole.

Competitors were able to enjoy the warm hospitality of the Clubhouse before over a hundred sat down to an early meal in the Holderness Dining Room. Chairman Tim Smith introduced BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton who thanked the Club for, as always, making us so welcome on the day before proposing the toast to Walton Heath Golf Club and their guests. This was followed by Captain Michael Vaines who welcomed everyone to the Club.

This year’s guest speaker, John Paramor, Chief Referee of the European Tour then entertained us with some fascinating and humorous stories experienced during his duties around the world. The South East Region of BIGGA is looking forward to the following companies for their very generous sponsorship and help with this event: Amanzio, Amenity Products, Blade Amenity, BSM Golf, CMW Golf, Cymru Ernest Doe Power, Everris, Golf Masts UK, Grass Roots/Dryjet UK, NIS,Priddid Ltd, Ruby Taylor, Sherffin Amenity and Speedcut Contractors Ltd. Claire Pagden.

BLOGGING WITH ROYAL APPROVAL

This month’s featured blog is from Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club in Kent, which will host the 2013 Amateur Championship as one of four venues selected for Final Open Qualifying from 2014 to 2018. The blog was started by Assistant Links Superintendent, James Bridge shortly after planning the Club last October. It’s crammed with information and high quality pictures documenting the greenkeeping team’s work including rough management, tee platform renovation, bunker resetting and all manner of winter taking place on the course.

The Club has already seen several clear benefits from writing the blog. James says: “Take the overseeding for example, we spent a good sum of money hiring an experienced line to do a specific task. Many golfers were asking what we were doing and why we were doing it. They were able to see the blog and get the information they required. Weeks later we were able to post a picture of the results and we are confident that a good part of the membership now understand why we do what we do.”

Links Superintendent Chris Barnard added: “I think the blog was a great idea from the start; it is a very useful tool for keeping members informed about current projects on the course. It helps to answer many questions before they are asked. It also gives more time out on the course to get through this year’s very busy winter programme.

“Our members are interested in the work we do and are proud of the course. We wanted to document all aspects of the club and to open the door to pre-emptively felling them. There were loads of positive replies and it seems a few courses have started blogs as a result. The Cradley Hub and Carnoustie blogs are particularly interesting as well as a few others. Some other blogs have inspired us to post photos by adding extra like video footage. Perhaps our blog inspires other courses to start!”

We’re hosting the British Amateur Championship this year and the green staff are doing a lot of work ahead of it. 2013 will be a very exciting time for everyone at Royal Cinque Ports.”

Contact Steve Castle at steve.castle@bigga.co.uk if you think your blog deserves to be featured in GI.