the Greenkeeper and Guest Day meeting at Boughton Golf Club on the 13th of September and I’m sure Gary Debenham will have the place looking fine for our visit. Jason Bean.

Surrey

Our summer tournament was held on the 27th in warm and sunny weather at Farnham Golf Club. Many thanks to Peter McGowan and his team for presenting the course in such fine condition and to Farnham Golf Club for hosting this surprising event.

Top of the points were;

Greg Richards, Hankley Common. 43pts
Douglas Stewart, Ferre. Royal Epson with an amazing 41 pts
and two recce:ts; Mike Gould, Coghehne, 40 pts a very welcome visitor from Sussex Section. Nearest the pin; Anthony Rudolf Bremer, Dorking. Longest Drive; Dave Gay.

Finally the Booby Prize for most golf we played congratulate Dan Wheader. Many thanks to Sheerwater for sponsoring the day and supplying such good quality prizes.

Anthony Freeman our Surrey Section Chairman has arranged a visit to the All England Tennis Club at Wimbledon. This promises to be most interesting excursion that will take place on October 17 from 2pm until about 4.30pm. Please contact Anthony before October 10 as all visitors must be registered prior to the day. Now other items of news from your roving reporter from around Surrey. Gerry and Nicola Bishop at Tandridge Golf Club have celebrated the birth of a son, Ethan James. 8 lbs 10 ozs. Congratulations to Jim & Ann Holmes at their Hindhead Golf Club Steve and Gerry Holmes happily announce that their daughter Jessica Michelle 8 lbs was born on Sunday, July 25. Local moves from club to club include Gordon Bell gone from Woodcote Park to take up a new position at Copthorne Hotel Effingham Park as Estate Manager/Head Greenkeeper and the move to the country Head Greenkeeper at Bramley Golf Club is Ibarry Smith from Shillinglea.

By the time this is in print we will have played the McMillan Tankard at Sunningdale. Results in October’s edition. The Autumn Tournament is at Croham Hurst on October 4 and the Turkey Trot and AGM take place at Malden on November 30. Please ensure that you contact Anthony Freeman about the All England Tennis Club visit at Wimbledon and we thank Eddie Seward in advance for an opportunity to see the inner workings of one of England’s greatest sporting attractions.

Brian Willmot.

South West

This year’s summer tournament was held at the Dendeside Golf Club. It was a very hot and sunny day with about 30 people and myself sitting on the patio sipping my Pimms. A very big thank you to K. James and also the catering staff for an excellent meal.

A big thank you to Roger Davey and Ocmis Irrigation for sponsoring the day and supplying the trophies and prizes.

In first place with a score of 40 points and winner of not only the Ocmis trophy but also the Assistants’ Trophy was John Boscald, second was Craig Fudge with 39 points and third was Jon Jons with 35 points. The nearest the pin was won by Ceri Richards but seemingly he was a rep, we decided to award it to Don Southey, and the longest drive was won by Ceri Richards.

In the raffle and many thanks go to those who supplied the prizes. Again many thanks go to Craig and all the staff at the Kendesbridge Golf Club.

The next date out for the Sept 12 match versus South Wales at St Pirre. Anyone wishing to play in this match should contact K James who will pass your name onto the team captain.

The other date to look out for is 16th October the autumn tournament and AGM which will be held at Cumberwell Park Golf Club anyone wishing to play may do so on 01934 627 143/07788 427 677 if you do not receive any notification through the post.

K. James

East Anglia

Firstly may I congratulate Paul Smith and his team at Royal Lytham & St. Annes for putting on a great venue for the 130th Open Championship. The course looked in splendid shape and certainly caused some problems for the professionals, and well done to the BIGGA team for their sterling performance. We raised £ 10 000 for the Royal Brompton Hospital in the presence of Nicklaus, Palmer and showing off the trophy and prizes. Again many thanks to Graham and winner of not only the Ocmis tro-

For the first time in ten years of our hand got a hole-in-one, Keith Tisshall holed out on the 9th hole - 194 yards with a 3 iron, one bounce and in. (Well done Keith.) The toilet seat was won by Pat Swinn from Rushmere Golf Club and only Pat could wear large blue check shorts with matching shirt.

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The judges decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into.
This competition is not open to BIGGA staff or non-members.

Last month, Robin Evans, from Whitby Golf Club, certainly knew his numbers when he correctly identified all three telephone numbers.
Our congratulations and a a fantastic BIGGA sportswatch are on their way to you!
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Any member who has found themselves out of work as a direct result of the Foot and Mouth Outbreak may wish to take advantage of the BIGGA website to help find another club. As a special service to members the Association will allow you to post a Job Shop advert on the website, listing your experience and qualifications, to take advantage of the BIGGA website to help find another club. As a special service to members the Association will allow you to post a Job Shop advert on the website, listing your experience and qualifications, as a special service to members the Association will allow you to post a Job Shop advert on the website, listing your experience and qualifications.

Please note: This offer only applies to website adverts and not those which you wish to appear in Greenerkeeper International.

**Please print clearly, and keep your entry to under 100 words.**

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Mr SR Swanson, Course Manager, Clandon Regis Golf Club Ltd, Espom Road, West Clandon Surrey GU4 7TT.

September 2001 Greenkeeper International 47
Sandy McDivot gets a few things off his chest...

As Basil Fawlty might say, satellite television is an avenue of pleasure that has been closed off to me. I have attempted to persuade Mrs McDivot of its necessity by pointing out that amongst other little treats, it would make available to her a channel entirely devoted to shopping, but she immediately makes the assumption that this channel is a pathetic ploy to spend our evenings in unathletic pose while watching sport with beer can perched on rapidly expanding abdominal region. Her objection to televised sport centres around her argument that there is little point in watching underground television, but when you can enjoy real life drama when you can enjoy real life drama show those films of old golf matches that this is a pathetic ploy to spend our profession. Everyone knows that playing from the ladies tees and backswing. However that's just a personal opinion of golf courses. Back in the days when he had a backswing. However that's just a personal opinion of the old days. The man who put us into the same bracket as estate agents and tax inspectors; a minority group that is it is brown or dead turf, bare patches, that’s as a more sanitised version. Hence greenkeepers are amongst other things, severely lacking in large areas of mud. However that’s just a personal opinion and unfortunately one that doesn’t always coincide with that of my members.

What then has been the driving force behind these changes over the years? Golf courses change with the fashion in house style, designed, built and maintained in a totally artificial manner. In fact in a straight contest between these courses and Mother Nature, even in the early days, the more natural look of the countryside tended to win. Personally as I look out through the clubhouse windows, beyond the incessant downpour called spring and onto the more natural look of Sludgecombe, I opine that these courses are amongst other things, severely lacking in large areas of mud. However that’s just a personal opinion and unfortunately one that doesn’t always coincide with that of my members.

But what then has been the driving force behind these changes over the years? Golf courses change with the fashion in house style and that of golf courses. Back in the early part of the last century, the simplicity of the arts and crafts and art deco movements came out of a rejection of the ornate stuffiness of the Victorian age. This was followed up with the 1930’s urban sprawl which symbolised a need to return to the more simple life of the country albeit as a more sanitised version. Hence the main roads that reach out from the cities into the tranquillity of the countryside, they are lined with neat 1930’s urban sprawl, often with Tudor style beams and each sur- rounded by its own piece of countryside in the form of a garden or at least three sides. Golf course architecture was in its infancy at the time but Colt, McKenzie and Ross et
al, all produced courses that would be in similar compatibility with nature as much as was possible. The land on which they were laid out was never altered to any degree and intrinsic features were utilised in the design. Water hazards were rarely produced unless they were naturally present and bunkers were made to look indistinguishable from their land on which they were laid out was would struggle to achieve with a drying plant and 50's bunkers were made to present and bunkers were made to employ unless they were naturally intrinsic features were utilised in the design. Water hazards were rarely altered to any degree and nature as much as was possible. The fact is, in those days average golf clubs were not in the summer at least always able to afford the luxury of dense grass coverage and with just a couple of greenkeepers that had to mow the greens using push mowers, who would want it. Maybe the trend setting courses we observe in those old films had gone out of their way to create grass so as they were set apart from the ordinary golf club. They could afford grass and so they made darn sure they would get it. It would become a measure of wealth. Onlookers would say to themselves “Look at that. They’ve got real grass on their greens that stops the ball from continually running 30-foot passed the hole. I wish we had that on our course The need to forget the war years also heavily influenced the building boom of the 50’s, 60’s and 70’s. The housing at that time was cheap and modern and no one seemed to bother too much about visual appeal. If it was old, knock it down and stick up a few million tons of brick and concrete. Hence we had the seemingly ludicrous building schemes of those times such as the Old Course Hotel on the 17th at St Andrews. Similarly the thankfully few golf courses that were built at this time, were often appalling in both their construction and their design. Bunkering would generally consist of large saucer shaped monstrosities, often shallow and boring which was presumably an attempt to match the design philosophies of the day. Then in the late 80s, housing developments attempted to reproduce country village like architectural diversity and we were inundated with features such as clock towers that were stuck practically everywhere, even on top of office blocks. At about this time we started to observe an almost mirror image traditional golf course fashion revival in the form of the odd double green a la St Andrews and Pete Dye’s bunker faces lined with railway sleepers. Even we greenkeepers indulged in a bit of ruralisation, as I seem to remember a severe outbreak of revetted bunkers at the time. It did not matter if the course was a hundred or so miles inland we all started to cut out acres of turf ready to pile up the faces of our bunkers. And so to today. The key word in house fashion is authenticity. Houses are sold as having original features. The overgrown, panelled doors and fireplaces that were ripped out in the 50’s are now being replaced with a vengeance. It does not matter whether it is Victorian Gothic, Georgian or even 70’s kitsch; it must be reproduced and conserved at all costs. It has even got to the stage where ghastly 60’s tower blocks are listed as being architecturally significant. And so it is with golf courses. People are regressing to their roots and reproducing the original design features of old. Bunkers are remodelled with creative shapes and mounds and their edges allowed to grow wild. Large areas of rough grassland are recreated and in some cases even the dreadful lines of leylandii and poplars are being replaced with the indigenous alternative.

The future? Well could we take things a logical step further and start to appreciate the more subtle shades of green that are to be found on our older more unaffected courses. A need for change and a rejection of the past has inspired us before. So now that the past is the multicoloured world of artificial courses, perhaps the future is to reject these synthetic abominations and to embrace not only the design concepts of bygone ages but also their colours and textures as well.

Sandy McDoliv, Head Greenkeeper, Sludgcombe Pay and Play
The Manor House, Castle Combe: Aeration; Salteen review: Mycorrhizas, Toro Award preview

Sir Michael Bonallack interview: The Pines GC; Oli Bunkers; National Championship preview

December '99: Agronomy; Security: Environment Competition Winners: Toro Award Winners

January 2000: Greens Construction: Awarded Jobs; Sandy M2360: Agronomy: Toro Award preview

February 2000: BTME2000 review: Committe to Green Interview; Hoylake Park GC; Engine: Chairman's profile: Environmental Management

March 2000: Cleobury Mortimer GC: Course Furniture: INA Conference Report: Cutting heights; Avenham profile; Yorkersden report: Vlistuff preview

April 2000: Fortrose & Rosemarkie GC: Utility Vehicles: Irrigation: Seed breeding: Gen Professional profile

May 2000: Ross-on-Wye GC; Top Dressing: Course Mapping: Compact Tractors

June 2000: National Championship preview; Spraying; World Education Conference review: Environmental Management; Mowers

July 2000: Open Championship Preview; Dougall Gardens Court Case Report; Pest Control: Avenham profile; Course Conditioning

August 2000: Open Championship review; Water Features; Salteen preview: Charcoal; Malone GC: Royal County Down: Grand Tour Scholarship

September 2000: Blowers and Sweeps; Berkshire College Academy: National Championship rundown: Gordon McIlroy interview: Winter health checks

October 2000: Toro Awards Preview; Norton Frees; Irrigation; Salteen Review; Pest Control; Woburn GC

November 2000: Grass Cutting Machinery; Clandeboye GC; Drainage: National Championship preview: Leathjar jacket management

December 2000: Toro Awards; Making the most of your Dealer: Budget Boosters; BTME2001 preview: BGGA/Berkhoffs CSOGA delegation preview


February 2001: BTME2001 review; Winter Mowing; Irrigation; Broadstone GC; Hedges; Security

March 2001: York GC; Greens Maintenance; Meland GC; Norwrey; Greens Mowers; BGGA Essay Winner; Grass Science profile

April 2001: Lightning detection: Bricket Hall GC; CSOGA report; Fairway Mowers; Irrigation: Standards: BGGA Essay winner; Turf Disease


June 2001: Stoke Park Club profile; Stuart Coght: MG: Tractors: Leaf Spot Disease: Take All Patch; Construction

July 2001: Royal Lytham profile; Tees Mowers: Penriths: Grass Greenes; John Dave profile; Sandy McDermott: College Listings

August 2001: Aviation Survey: Machine GC profile; Rough Mowers; Salteen Preview; Dr Alain Gange - environmental research: Heytesbury Profile: Ponds: Open Championship review: Toro Student of the Year profile

Immediately after finishing this column I have the great privilege of travelling up to Stoke Park to present the club with its Golden Key plaque. As we have said before we are all delighted that Stoke Park has shown the foresight in being the first golf club to contribute so generously to the Education and Development Fund through the Golfen Key programme. We do hope that more clubs become involved because, after all, it is the golf clubs which ultimately benefit from all the good work that is carried out as a direct result of the existence of BGGA's Education and Development Fund.

I'm also pleased to be making the visit because I haven't been to Stoke Park for many years and I'm looking forward to having a good look at the golf course.

Talking about presentations, I can't go on without congratulating Walter Woods on becoming the next recipient of the prestigious Old Tom Morris Award, made annually by the GSAS.

We're all very proud of Walter who was the Association's first Chairman in 1987 when he combined the role with his demanding 'day job' of maintaining high standards, at the St Andrews Links courses. He has done huge amounts to advance greenkeeping as a career in general as well as given so many young greenkeepers a boost in their own career development.

Past winners of the Award include Arnold Palmer, President Gerald Ford, Bob Hope and Jaime Ortiz-Patino, while the last winner was Tim Fincham, Commissioner of the US Tour. So you can imagine the excitement of Walter keeping. It is a great honour for Walter, particularly as it is in the name of a fellow St Andrews man, and a great honour for our Association.

I'd like to thank all the members who took part in the recent R&A funded survey conducted by Mike Williamson. The Board are currently looking at the responses and we shall report back at a later date on the findings.

While in Yorkshire for the Board meeting to discuss the report I took the opportunity to call in on Simon Haynes, at Skipton Golf Club. Simon used to work for me and has been made welcome by the locals on his move north.

His golf course was surrounded by sheep but the course was still open. In contrast we've just returned from a short break in the South West - a bit like Tony and Cherie Blair - and there is still a great deal of evidence of the Foot and Mouth outbreak. It seems there are different rules in place for different parts of the country.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish Dave Sammells and his team at The De Vere Belfry all the very best for the Ryder Cup later this month. Having been in the same position myself in 1981 I know the pressures involved in preparing a course for a Ryder Cup. With the way the Cup has grown over the last 20 years they are even greater now, so I hope that Dave and the team get the weather to show the course off to its best advantage and none of the problems adverse weather can bring.

Saltex is just around the corner and I look forward to seeing many of you in Windsor. You know you are all welcome at the BGGA stand for a chat, information or just to say hello.

Just before I finish I'd just like to say that working on a heathland golf course I particularly enjoy this time of year when the heather is in full bloom and everything is looking very nice. It makes you forget the problems of earlier in the year... or very nearly does at any rate!