

**East Midlands**

Not a great deal to report on this month, other than to say if you would like to renew your number for the 100 ball draw please get in touch with Gavin Robson and Jeff Dickinson. There are several numbers still available at £6.00 a number. This year's AGM will take place at Kibworth GC on November 12, 4:30pm. The Christmas Tournament will be held on December 11 at Kilworth Springs Golf Club at 10:30pm. If you would like an entry form please contact me nearer the date.

Antony Bindley



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**South West**

Dear Members, Hot, dry, wet, hot, dry, wet, if my predictions are correct by the time you are reading this it should be Hot, Hot (scorchio) and we are expected to keep immaculate surfaces under these conditions. I wonder if golfers back at their desks are constantly judged as harshly as we are on a day by day basis. Unfortunately my moaning is not going to stop here. More of that later.

Summer tournament, venue Minchinhampton. Has anyone heard the story of the golfer in America whose ball missed the fairway, landed in the river on a piece of driftwood and continued on its merry way. So did the golfer. He grabbed a nearby canoe paddled along side the driftwood swiping madly at it until he finally connected with it two miles down stream managing to hit it onto a nearby road, he then proceeded to play the ball back to his golf club and finally down the hole he was originally playing and putted out, with a final total of 137 for the hole - the most shots ever played on one hole. It's at this point you are most probably wondering where this is all going. Well a certain person who shall remain nameless. Yeah you wish Matt (The Badger) Hawker. Twenty bloody one on the 2nd, six packets of Hamlet later he is in the hole. Needless to say this poor performance was in no way a reflection upon the course, which was in truly outstanding condition (see scores below). I personally loved seeing the bunker faces kept long, getting away from the norm of perfect lies in and around bunkers. A true links style challenge. Our thanks go to Paul and his team.

Results: 0 - 10 1. Marc Haring, 70 - 65; 2. Shaun Richards, 71 - 67. 11-19 1. Wayne Vincent, 82 - 67; 2. Graham Percival, 81 - 69. 20+ 1. Mathew Lesson-Magri, 94 - 66; 2. Mathew Worster, 91 - 71. National Championship Paul Jenking, Gross 69.

Do you remember earlier in the article I mentioned moaning? Well here I go. For a start all of the above article is only relevant to a small percentage of our membership. For instance there were 40 at Minchinhampton one sixth of the Section membership. One of the reasons for non-attendance used to be if you didn't play golf there was nothing else. Well, that has been rectified with the course walk and if truth be known it was a complete failure. For example at Minchinhampton the agronomist Robert Laycock was on site along with Roger Davey, of Irritech, for all you irrigation queries and Paul Worster for a walk and Q & A session. It is also an Open qualifying course. Attendance zero, walk was cancelled. Now is it me, or is it lack of information, apathy, or you are all so busy you can't get away, but after all this is what the Association is all about Education AND Learning or have I got it all wrong?

Another example the day here at Bath Golf Club. Toro, Agronomist, Aboriculturist free lunch just turn up and be entertained and educated. Enquiries so far - four. Doesn't exactly inspire me. Golf days are nearly always fully booked for those playing, it's the education side that is lacking. Devon and Cornwall for instance get as many on the walk as they do the golf. I personally learnt a lot at Minchinhampton far more than if I played the course. For example I visited both courses, chatted to the agronomist, Roger, the lads, the Mechanic, know their aeration programme, top dressing, fertilisers, machinery, water system and how they implement all these factors to become an Open qualifying venue. I wonder how apparent all this was to those playing golf?

I am not going to apologise for the tone of this article. All I want for this Section is

some conviction to at least ask or tell me what you want and perhaps stimulate some discussion and feed back. I am not prepared just to be a results service for a few elite members.

Good luck to Duncan Smith whom I wrongly accused some months ago of employment at Weston super Mare GC. He's off up north to Deanwood GC. from Cotswold Hills; John Keenaghan moving from the Kendleshire to Chipping Sodbury as Deputy Course Manager and also Nick Wilson leaving Kendleshire to set up his own landscaping business. Robin Greaves is back into sales again selling turkey s\*\*t.

Our thanks to T H Whites Nigel Howe and Mike Harris for the sponsored team polo and sweat shirts.

No replies yet for that free trip to Harrogate, Just a note to say why you think you should go, don't be embarrassed someone's got to win, It might as well be you rather than the idiot sat next to you. Guy Woods 078123 80936, 01225 483486, 01225 333928 e-mail greenkeepers@bathgolfclub.fsworld.co.uk

Guy Woods



**Devon & Cornwall**

Our Summer meeting, sponsored by Symbio, was held at Trethorne Golf Club on Tuesday, June 17. There were 40 members present, with 30 contesting the afternoon golf match and the remaining members attended our customary course walk.

After a superb evening meal our sponsor, Martin Ward, from Symbio, presented the prizes for the Stableford competition to: 1. John Roberts, Woodbury Park, 38 pts; 2. Jeff Mills, Taunton and Pickeridge, 36 pts; 3. Simon Coombes, Dainton Park, 34 pts

The Section would like to thank Symbio for their support and Trethorne Golf Club for allowing us the use of their excellent facilities. The golf course was in excellent condition and a big thank you to Mike Davey and his team.

The Vitax Matchplay competition is now well into round three and if you have any outstanding results, please pass them onto me as soon as possible.

Congratulations to Alan Gawman, of St Mellion GC, who is the new South West Counties Champion and also to Mark Evans and the Devon County Team who "cleaned up" at the recent championships held at Burnham and Berrow.

I would like to assure all our members that the problems at Cannington College have now been resolved and the outlook is very good for the future. If anyone has any queries you can contact our GTC liaison officer, Jeff Mills or David Golding at the GTC.

At our recent meeting at Trethorne Golf Club on Tuesday, June 17, a presentation was made to mark the retirement of Paul Bullen, of Newquay Golf Club. Paul has been at Newquay for 42 years and has been an ardent supporter of the Devon and Cornwall Section since 1981. Paul was presented with an engraved claret jug from the Section and a petrol strimmer from the Section and trade companies. The Section would like to wish Paul a long and happy retirement and look forward to seeing him at our education/golf days.

Steve Evans



**South Wales**

Our summer tournament was played at Cardiff GC on June 20, the sponsors of the day was RS Bird's and it was good to see Heather and Steve (cliffy), who attended the meal and presentation. Winner of the Birdie cup was Peter (Tiger) Lacey; 2. Richard Pattison; 3. Emyr Lewis. Nearest the Pin prizes went to Adrian Panks, Russell Anderson, and Phil Thomas. Longest Drive went to Peter Holstrom.

Our thanks go to all at Cardiff GC for a very enjoyable day, especially Russell and his staff for the first class preparation of the course, and to the caterers for an equally good meal. Thanks again to Birds for sponsoring the day.

On Saturday, June 28 I attended Pencoed College open day, along with Dave Ward and Julian Bartlett Jones. We took over one of the classrooms and set up the BIGGA boards in the hope of attracting some interest from students and passers by. Although we were not particularly busy some people did pop in for a chat and were made aware of BIGGA and the South Wales Section.

Adrian Panks



## Around the Green



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### Kent

On my travels, I can see that everyone is well into their summer maintenance programme. Most of you are busy preparing for competitions and battling the elements to produce a course that will meet the expectations of the ever demanding golfers!

On the news front, Lee Sayers has moved from The London Golf Club to take up the position of Course Manager at Mid Kent Golf Club. The Section wishes you well at your new club.

I must congratulate Melvyn Tassell, Deputy Head at Sittingbourne Golf Club on the successful completion of his NVQ Level 3 at Hadlow College, well done.

Now a momentous achievement. Terry Lord, Deputy Head at Westerham GC, has finally passed his NVQ Level 3 at Plumpton College. As anyone that knows Terry will tell you, he has been studying for a long time. Not only did he pass, Terry has been awarded The Cup and Tankard that is sponsored by the Sussex Golf Union for his achievements.

Please don't forget that the Kent Section's next golf day is on August 21. This is the guest day and will be held at Lydd Golf Club.

If anyone has any other news, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Phil Belton



### East Anglia

Here we are again then Happy New Year, 70+ turned up at Bury St Edmunds Golf Club. This time we had some posh Nomads with us as it was Greenkeeper Captain Competition played in the usual jolly manner on a very well presented course. Thanks to Steve Millard and his crew. The winners were: Bob Boyce and Tony Harvers with a combined score of 70 points. The rest were as follows: 0-9. 1. Nick Brewster, 40 pts; 2. Mike Virley, 38 pts; 3. Bob Barnes, 33 pts. 10-18 1. Kevin Hodges, 35 pts; 2. Sam Sylvester, 29 pts; 3. Glen Rayfield, 29 pts. 19-28 1. Chris Murphy, 35 pts; 2. Martin Mison, 31 pts; 3. Keith Titshaw, 30 pts. Trade. 1. Tony Harvers, 39 pts; 2. Gary Turner, 37 pts; 3. Mark Day, 34 pts. Longest Drive. Chris Murphy. Nearest The Pin - 8' 4" (if you want metric I'm not the one to ask) Geoff Holmes. Then came the loo seat bringing up the rear, as it were, which was won and not forgotten by Richard Fulford. He did actually forget the hole-in-one prize, which was a workman's twister. He did however travel a considerable distance to go and get it and for that noble act we won't mention his score (which was four points). All the prizes were presented by Jim Cole, the Club Chairman, and donated by Toro and Lely UK.

Seoul Nassau (Mike Fance gave me his card I hope it's not a rude word), Norfolk Turf Machinery, Bartram Mowers, Rigby Taylor, Rushbrooks, C.M.W., Atherton and ELS Consultant Clarkson and anyone else who knows me. I must admit I lost the list of sponsors and apologise for anyone missed out. As my probation officer used to say "Try harder next time" (Sorry). It was good to see Lyndon Upham the Wesley Wizard after a few years of absence. His golf was not effected by the break, he's still naff. But he did win the raffle. And finally (nearly) contrary to popular belief Mark

Day is not pregnant but his wife gave birth to a bouncing baby girl who weighed 6lbs 10 oz. (No metric) whose name is Christina, Ah ain't that nice. Congratulations to them all. Did Mark and Larry drink from the same tap? I ask myself. That's nearly all folks except to thank you, Bury St Edmunds Golf Club, for a super day and Kevin Leech for the halfway house pub. To all the cockneys everywhere "Cheers mate".

Mick Lathrope



### Essex

Well here we are August already. Wimbledon and The Open have been and gone with a new football season starting early for the first time for some teams (especially for those West Ham supporters).

Time also to catch up on Section events. First back in April we held our Spring Tournament and a belated thank you to the following:- Benton Hall GC, Scott Clark the General Manager and his staff; Graeme Gallimore and his Green staff and our main sponsor Vitax and Joe Crawley. Also for his personal input Craig Brisley. Overall winner on the day was James Morgan.

Despite the windy conditions there were some excellent scores with our representatives at this year's National Championship coming from Channels GC, Dominic Rodgers best gross and Ray Clark best nett.

The main sponsors for the day were Tacit and a big thank you to Tim Webb and Mark Day for providing the prizes. Our thanks also to Bishops Stortford GC, Barry Collins the Club Secretary, their staff, Keith Rowley, the Course Manager and his team for having the course in excellent condition despite a difficult season.

Overall Mick Dillaway, Nett 70; Cat 1 1. Richard Hare, 72; 2. Anthony Kirwin, 73; 3. Steve Crosdale, 75. Cat 2 1. Martin Forrester, 74; 2. Mark Stopps, 75; 3. Martin Guy, 76. Trade. Richard Lewis, 73. Nearest The Pin. Ray Clark. Longest Drive. Ian Denny

We would also like to thank the following trade for donating raffle prizes: - Banks Amenity, Collier Turf Care, Driving Force Leisure, Gem, Rigby Taylor, Tuckwells and Sheriff Amenity Services.

Enjoy your summer holidays.

Martin Forrester



### Surrey

With hot sunny weather sprinkled here and there with warm showers it must be that summer has arrived and the majority of greenkeepers that I have met over the past weeks are the happiest that I have seen them for a long time. I use the word majority because there are always exceptions and in this case it was Paul Weston. Paul's team must have worked hard at this year's venue for the Surrey Section's Summer Tournament to get The Drift Golf Club in such an excellent condition. The whole course was beautifully manicured and with fast and true greens it was a pleasure to be among the 45 members who turned out. Mark Bellamy, Head Greenkeeper at The Drift, told me that Paul had been practising every day over the past weeks and was expecting to copy Derek Cunliffe's home win at Old Thorns Golf Club the previous month.

Unfortunately it was not to be and after the game I spoke to one of Paul's threeball, Pete Broadbent, who informed me that although Paul was playing well enough as soon as the electrical storm reached the area Paul's compass went haywire and it was not until the prize giving was over that he managed to find his way back to the clubhouse. We all thank Ted Styles for volunteering to head the search party but by the time a new compass was found, Paul had followed the sounds of clapping and arrived back safely just in time for dessert. Hard luck Paul but good luck to the winners.

1. Tony Bremer, Dorking GC, 40 pts; 2. Paul Bacon, Petersfield GC, 40 pts; 3. Brian Willmott, Tacit, 38 pts. Nearest the Pin, Nigel Colley, Roehampton GC. Longest Drive. John Mathis, Southwood GC. Sponsors for the day were Gem International and we thank them for the very good quality prizes.

The next golf competition is the McMillan Tankard at Sunningdale on August 6 followed, on September 25, at Richmond Golf Club.

Please let me know of any news for the congratulation paragraph and as this month it is empty I would like to give a personal Thank You to Tony Worsfold RAC GC for his expert driving skills when chauffeuring my youngest daughter, Celia, and my new son-in-law Peter on a tour of Epsom Downs after their marriage on June 21.

Brian Willmott



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Turftime Teaser, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aline, York YO61 1UF. Entries to arrive no later than August 20th 2003. The first correct entry drawn will receive a Palm hand-held Computer.

This competition is not open to BIGGA Staff or non-members. The solution to the July Turftime Teaser was 'John Greasley Limited'. Well done to those of you that spotted the 'deliberate' mistake and sent in the correct answer! The lucky winner of the fantastic case of champagne is Gary Britton of Notts Golf Club - WELL DONE!

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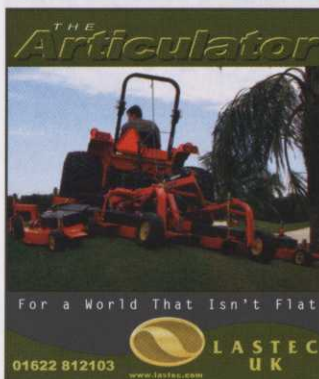
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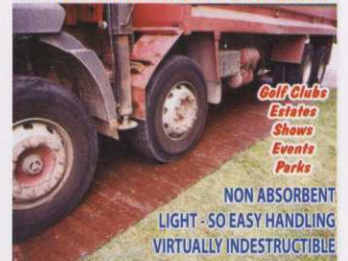
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# John Campbell

John Campbell, who was the first appointed Links Supervisor of St Andrews Links, passed away on June the 8th aged 84 making it a sad day for the greenkeeping industry.

## CHANGES IN GREENKEEPING

By J. K. Campbell  
(Links Supervisor at St. Andrews)

THE 75th anniversary of *Golf Illustrated* brought back to mind many changes in the game of golf from the days of the old "guttie" to the modern ball, and from hickory to the power steel shafts of today.

On reflection as a greenkeeper and in discussion with many of my profession, one is also reminded of the changes and evolution in the methods and equipment for golf course upkeep. In an effort to maintain the turf to withstand the wear and tear of the welcome and ever increasing numbers of enthusiasts, one must, after all, make up the cost majority.

It was my privilege to know I. H. Taylor while he was recalled the early days and the more primitive than they are today. The early types of grass mowers and the precision multi-bladed rotary mowers for use by officials, television and the press to give up-to-the-minute information. Vantage points have been built, and ground levelled around the perimeter of the course to ensure reasonable walking conditions.

The construction of "natural" vantage points to accommodate spectators by the material, and a co-ordinated programme of maintenance and other mechanical devices. Essentially the work is done by the greenkeeper's regular course maintenance permits.

As to the siting of the vantage points are obvious and after an event the trading of points to others which give a clear indication of cost and so spread the load. Connecting paths around the perimeter, and this equal importance and all new work has to be consolidated and turfied over to present spectators with the best possible conditions under the eye as well as practical, and the traditional appearance of the course stands can be left in the hands of the erectors, but the main object devolves on the greenkeeper whose task it is to make best use of natural amenities blend with the surroundings, so that, apart from maintenance, the first cost of which is the last.

In the process of toughening up the course to lengthen or improve some of the holes. While this is being done it is important that

The push-type grass mowers once used for cutting greens and are gradually being replaced by powerful multi-bladed motor mowers which have made the task much easier and better results are obtained in a course of a day.

The old horse-drawn grass mower, once used for cutting fairways has now been superseded by tractor-drawn quintuple and septuple gang-mower units, and these can contend with considerable areas in a course of a day.

There are rotary mowers for dealing with all kinds of long grass, and although the old art of scything is gradually dying out, it is still a job the results achieved by the few who can still handle this useful mechanically propelled machines to maintenance from

the regular routine of course maintenance should proceed unhindered, and club members enjoy their daily game with as little inconvenience as possible.

As the day of the tournament draws nearer the greenkeeper's services are much in demand, and the holes will be placed each day, for prefabricated stands if necessary, television towers, marquees and tents, scoreboard, notice boards, collection and disposal of litter.

When the players arrive they expect and so by this time preparations have been completed. Greens, tees and fairways have been given their final trim, bunkers also meticulously dealt with including the fringes. Flags, carefully manicured background of emerald green striped lines which is the pleasing effect produced by the greenkeeper with his mowing machine.

During the course of a tournament the greenkeeper as his work must be done before every morning to cut greens, tees, fairways,

move hole positions and rake bunkers. Irrespective of the weather all this work must be done on schedule though often it may mean wet skins.

By the time the spectators and players arrive the work of course grooming by the staff will be completed—then they may be employed to parts of the course for dealing with bunkers etc. and any other tasks of suitable maintenance.

This schedule of work continues throughout the course of the event, jobs such as cutting over. In the event of drought pre-conceived watering greens and tees etc. in the evening and overnight. This considerably adds to the greenkeeper's many tasks as it involves moving equipment with care being taken to ensure that all areas receive the same amount of water every hole. Where this is done all equipment must be out of the way before play begins in the morning.

After the event the work of the staff really begins with the task of cleaning up and stonings and studs, etc. are a menace to the mowing machines and make routine maintenance more arduous for the next few days.

When next you view a satisfying event either on the spot or on television and possibly admire the look of the course, remember those behind the scenes and particularly the Back Room Boys.

THE BACK ROOM BOYS  
The beautiful fairways, the well manicured greens, the immaculately raked bunkers. All these we have come to expect at an important event at a championship course. In this article J. K. CAMPBELL, which the greenkeeper and his staff have to perform before, during and after a big event



John was initiated into greenkeeping at the early age of 15, working with his dad at Hilton Park, just outside Glasgow, and starting on a weekly wage of nine shillings. His first interest on leaving school, however, was commercial art which he studied at evening classes and through correspondence courses while he was still earning his keep as an apprentice greenkeeper.

With the outbreak of the Second World War John joined the Gordon Highlanders and unfortunately he was among those captured and taken prisoner by Rommel, along with most of the 51st Highland Division at St Valery France in 1940

When liberated by the Americans he again returned to work at Hilton Park with his father before joining Royal North Devon Golf Club as Head Greenkeeper. It was at this great Links that he met JH Taylor who won the Open five times and was runner up on six further occasions. They remained good friends for many years.

It was from this great club that he then moved to East Herts for a period before returning to Scotland and Longniddry Golf Club where he worked for five years. It was then that he took on the job at the Home of Golf as Links Supervisor.

His first Open Championship was when "Champagne" Tony Lema came to St Andrews and astounded the locals by going out to play with barely an knowledge of the Old Course, using the local caddie Tip Anderson as his guide and winning the famous claret Jug. John's other Open was in 1970 when Jack Nicklaus beat Doug Sanders in the play off after Sanders had famously three putted on the final green.

During this period greenkeeping was trading water but golf in general was about to become extremely popular. John was one of the first to recognise the importance of education to assist the greenkeepers to cope with the many golfers who would take up the game of golf. To achieve this he set up basic educational courses, which were the fore runner of the huge amount of education that many Course Managers require today. He was also an extremely good lecturer, speaking at many universities and other venues all over the world.

John also wrote many articles for magazines, however his hobby was drawing cartoons for golf magazines, his most famous was portrayed in the golf illustrated monthly magazine, where you could see an irate ready to explode golfer standing on the green of the Road hole, looking at a huge steam roller flatten his golf ball, with the operator driving along without a care in the world.

In 1974 John left St Andrews to take up employment at a 36 hole complex at Foxhills Surrey where his vast experience in course management helped create a reputation for a complex, which staged some important events soon after it opened in 1975.

He remained at Foxhills for some time, then continued with consultancy work until he decided to retire.

John was a modest man, approachable and generous with his time, easily recognised everywhere with his tartan "bonnet" he will always be remembered for his unstinting contribution to the greenkeeping world. All of us on every golf course throughout the golfing world, send our sympathy to his family.

Walter Woods





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