Central

Congratulations to George Brown and the team for a great Open and everyone in the Central Section wishes both George all the best for his future and Evan Grant, his successor, the same. I’m sure we’ll still see and hear of George for a few years yet despite him being put out to (green and stripey) grass!

The main focus of the report this month is the education events the Section is running for you, the members. We really need your support for these to be a success as we cannot afford to run them at a loss, therefore if we cannot get adequate names we will have to pull the plug on them. We appreciate times are tough on the economic front but we have secured subsidies from the BIGGA education fund and the cost of attending these events has been dramatically reduced from what people would normally have to pay. Training is often the first thing to be shelved when money is tight but the most successful companies don’t take that view and realise the long term benefit providing good education to their staff brings.

We have training on how to conduct investigations and disciplinary meetings in October on the morning of the AGM, a two day environmental course in November and how to carry out staff appraisals in December.

Full details are on the website www.biggacentralsection.com <http://www.biggacentralsection.com/> Please support us and make the events a success by enrolling for these classes now.

Gordon Moir

Northern Region

North Wales

I’m sitting in front of this silly computer hoping that it doesn’t freeze and I lose my article for the THIRD TIME! So far, so good. This month is the height of our season with our courses facing a daily barrage of visiting parties, members’ competitions and juniors trying to fit 12 months of fixtures into the school holidays.

The annual North Wales/ North West match took place at Bolton Golf Club in June and on an excellent course North Wales reclaimed the trophy they lost last year (YES!). Congratulations to all the golfers who played so well, also a big thank you has to go to Bolton Golf Club for providing such a fantastic course, food and facilities.

Terry Adamson has asked me to let you know that he will be running another pest control course in the autumn, I went on the last one and very informative it is too! Anyone interested in signing up for the one day course please contact Terry.

In local news, Ian Farrall, Paul Gator and Carl Crocher of Caldy Golf Club entered a team for the Wirral Bikeathon and raised over £300 for Leukaemia Research. Carl’s son, Max, replaced one of his staff who had to drop out at the last minute, with 28 miles covered.

Paul Gator’s wife gave birth to their second daughter in June. Mother, Janet, and Isabel are doing fine.

Our summer event was held two golf events up to now this year, firstly I would like to thank our two sponsors so far this year, Pro Turf and Mansfield Sand. A massive thanks go to all our sponsors for their continued support of the Section. Secondly I would like to thank both sets of greenkeepers at Hallowes and Lees Hall for providing us with superb conditions to play in.


Sponsor - Pro Turf


Sponsor - Mansfield Sand

That is all from me this month. Once again if anyone one has any news for me please don’t hesitate in contacting me. Hope you all have a good August, I certainly will if Wednesday pick up three points against Barnsley in the first game.

J.Stevens

jimmy_jams20@hotmail.com

Sheffield

Hello again everyone, my apologies for the lack of news in last month’s magazine, things caught up with me a little and I was a bit late sending them.

I shall and try and redeem myself in this month’s edition. On the Section front everything is running as smooth as possible, things are a little quite at this time of the year as everyone is really busy. Over the next couple of months I will be organising speakers for our winter lectures and will be finalising some other dates for Section events. Everyone will be informed of these events later in the year.

The Section has held two golf events up to now this year, firstly I would like to thank our two sponsors so far this year, Pro Turf and Mansfield Sand. A massive thanks go to all our sponsors for their continued support of the Section. Secondly I would like to thank both sets of greenkeepers at Hallowes and Lees Hall for providing us with superb conditions to play in.


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J.Stevens

jimmy_jams20@hotmail.com

Midland Region

Midland

What’s this I hear? The quiet unassuming gentle Phil Nixon is off on a gambling spree to the capital of decadence, Las Vegas. By God the wages at Penn must have improved somewhat since Millsy took over, or has the club’s budget suddenly gone up! Oh, the reason for the vacation is that Phil is getting married by Elvis to Rachael on the 28th. Congratulations to you both and good luck for the future my friend. “I’m all shook up”.

Our summer event was held...
at one of my old haunts, Harborne G.C. I must congratulate J. Gilchrist and his fine team on the wonderful condition of the course. It hasn’t been that good since 1999! The other players and I all greatly enjoyed the whole day, and a huge thanks to Harborne G.C. and to the finest company of its elected dignitary, Mr. R. Waddington, (time has only slightly mellowed you sir). The results of the day were; Best Gross: M. Hughes. Nett; 1. M. Cutler. 2. J. Gilchrist. 3.M. Hughes. 4. Slim Kid/R. Beacham. S. A. Brougham. 6. R. Thomas. Our thanks to British Seed House for their generous sponsor, as past of their main plan to give. To us mere mortals a fighting chance at a prize longest drive has now been replaced with all par-3’s N.T.Pers which is sponsored by our old friends N.Tyler/Sherriff Amenity. The winners being; D. Unerhill, P.Mills, and H.Middlebrook (on the toughest par-3 I’ve ever come across). Well done to all and once again thanks Jim and team and of course my old friend Harborne G.C. Congratulations sexy bho y Steve on your vernal new arrival, Ruby.

Now, I hear that the local greengrocers to Myerscough College are rather worried regarding their sales of apples, such being due to the fact that P. Woodham has now passed his Foundation Degree with distinctions and has also been awarded the “Barevnurn Award” as the top teacher’s pet/turfgrass student. Also our humble Chairman, Ed, has also graduated in the same course with distinctions, but missed out on teacher’s pet. I know you tried, Ed, never mind. Congratulations to you both, it’s about time you both became educated.

As many of you know we have a slight irritation regarding one of this year’s calendar photos, but let us leave them where they lay. It is wonderfully refreshing that this month’s sponsor’s; North Stafs Irrigation Ltd. have embraced the photo of the extremes that we all have to deal with good humour, and such also depicts the value of both good irrigation and drainage services. Please consider them for your wateral needs; www.northstaffsirrigation.co.uk. And finally, the Section would like to wish all the very best to Melissa Jones (Assist Ed GI) who is leaving HQ to have a little one. Good luck, lass. Sean McDade

Mid-Anglia

Not much news for you this month I’m afraid, but golf calendar is as follows:- Mid-Herts GC host us in the Autumn on October 7th and we go to John O’Gaunt GC in December for the Turkey Trot.

If you, or your staff, are interested in participating in any courses or training programmes, please contact Gerald, at Berkhamsted GC, to enquire further. There is quite often funding available and if not already catered for, special training/courses can be arranged.

If anyone has an item of interest, news or information that they would like to put into this column please contact me as all contributions are welcome.

craig.spooner@limagrain.co.uk
Craig Spooner

BB&O

What a Gem! Oakland Park GC in all its green splendour was a fantastic venue for The Gem Summer Rose Bowl Tournament held on June 24, Oakland Park located in South Bucks is a privately owned family business with 18 holes set in pleasantly undulating parkland on the edge of the Chilterns, with a combination of outstanding beauty and designed by the highly acclaimed Jonathan Gaunt, provided an excellent golfing experience.

After a few olives and a pink gin, Clive Parnell, from Gem Professional, presented the prizes to the winners.

The results were as follows. In 3rd place was Adam King with 36 points, in 2nd was Joe Drummond 37 points and in 1st place Ben the Bandit Griffins with 42 points.

Nearest the Pin, Dave Searles and Stewart Clayton, Longest Drive, Paul Hedger and Clive Parnell and James Wilkinson pinching the Nearest the Pin in 2.

Thank you to Oakland Park GC for courtesy of the course and the excellent traditional home made menu served by the Oakland catering department. The course was in tip top condition and credit to Dominic Lewis and all the Oakland green staff for their efforts in preparing the course which was much appreciated by all.

Chris Slimm, from Harleyford GC, has just joined the fastest dad club, his partner, Nicki, has just given birth to first child, Isla, Mother and daughter are doing very well.

On the Harleyford GC. front, I was sent a photo of a Kangaroo roaming the golf course, Yes I say, roaming the golf course was a Kangaroo, and according to Simon Marsh this is no hoax, the wee little beastie is no bother at all but no one knows how or when he arrived, a likely story I hear you say, a likely story, I just keep saying that! But it’s true! Likely story.

Simon Marsh has been hard at work and has organised two educational days out, first we have a day at DLF Trifolium who are the largest and fastest growing grass seed company in the UK, DLF have over 100 years experience in plant breeding and seed production and we have a chance to visit there manufacturing facilities by way of a guided tour. Cost for the day will be £5.00 and will include lunch and refreshments. Details will be on the website soon, numbers will be limited; date for this will be on October 7.

On November 25, TH White has organised a day out to Ransomes Ipswich in Suffolk. Ransomes Jacobsen manufacture an extensive range of turf maintenance equipment and utility vehicles to meet the needs of today’s grounds care professionals.

Ransomes have a state of the art manufacturing facility where we will be given a guided tour of the factory with a fascinating insight to the production of various machines.

The company also have a new 3 hole testing facility, Created over two hectares of heath land and scrub, each green and teeing areas has been constructed with different profiles and grass types including fescue, fescue and bent and creeping bent - an example of what can be achieved on a small parcel of land.

Please book early for this as numbers will be limited; cost will be £5.00 and will include transport from T.H.White with lunch and refreshments.

Just a quick reminder, as you are reading this article, have you forgotten that on August 13 at Donnington Valley GC the Autumn Invitational Team Event is about to take place, so a last minute entry may be available, get in touch if you can make it.

If any member has any news or views they would like to share, or would like more information about the section and forthcoming events you only have to check out bbogreenkeepers.co.uk

Mark Day
mark.day@tacitgolf.co.uk

South East

East Anglia

Apologies for not having Notes in recently but there was a problem at HQ’s end.

Nearly 60 souls played (I use the term loosely) Rookery Park Golf Club, in April. Unfortunately, I was not there, but I have it from a reliable source (if you can call someone with a star spangled belt reliable) that the course was in excellent condition thanks to Mall Henderson and his crew.

The scores are as follows:-

There were several nearest the pins, as follows:- 4th Sponsored by Baileys of Norfolk – Mark Clements; 9th Sponsored by

Bartram Mowers – David Lord (sand wedge); 14th Sponsored by Spearhead – Norman Fenwick.

There were also several longest drives as follows: 5th Sponsored by Bailey’s – Ben Wallis (2 iron for safety); 7th Sponsored by Bartram’s – Matthew Gill (down wind); 18th Sponsored by Spearhead – Norman Fenwick.

Our thanks again to Rookery Park Captain, David Wright, and Secretary, Richard Jones. Our main sponsors for the day were Bartram Mowers. The cavalry, as always, were: Bailey’s of Norfolk, Aitkens, SISIS, Sherriff, Rigby Taylor, Sherriff, Symbio, Collier Turf Care, Hayter, Force Limogran and Bury Turf Care.

After a brief discussion (20 seconds) the ‘Loo Seat’ was awarded to Ian for crashing his buggy. Apparently he got off it, played his shot and there it was – gone – hit nearest tree.

There was one other nominee put up by someone who shall remain nameless (but he is a lemon!) He suggested that Paul Gould (Head Honcho Thetford) should get the seat for putting the pins in the wrong place. How can you give the host a loo seat after presenting a course like that? I thought they were mates!

Thanks to Club Captain, Martin Engwell, for making the speech and Andy Turbin, of Ernest Doe, for presenting the prizes.

Thank you Thetford for a lovely day.

Mick Lathrope

Sussex

The Sussex Section enjoyed a wonderful days golf for its Spring event at Pycombe Golf Club. The rain held off until the last players were in but the top of the Sussex Downs on a windy day can provide really testing conditions for golf.

The day was sponsored by John Shaw (Machinery) Ltd and Steve Voges was of course there to present the prizes. Pycombe is situated in spectacular downlands and Course Manager, Simon Wells, had provided the Section with a golf course in wonderful condition in keeping with the surroundings.

His efforts, I should add, were matched by the Catering Staff at the afternoon meal. Before the evening meal the Section remembered Derek Coomber, a stalwart of the Sussex Section and of BIGGA, who had recently passed away.

The winner of the best gross score was Laurie Tremlett with Glen Pollard and Duncan Hayes in second and third places.

The best nett score was won by Rob Hudson with Eric Green and Darren Mitchell taking the minor places. The Longest Drive was won by Laurie Tremlett and hold the record for care of equipment, for, similar to Trigger and his broom, in all those years he has only had one rake.

Eddy Oliver has broken a club record at Liphook GC, the details of which I do not know but I am sure that when you see him at the next golf day, he will be glad to fill you in, many, many times.

Baby of the month is Emily Heather Allpress 7lbs 6ozs, born on Friday July 3 at 6.05 am. Emily and her mother, Nicole, are both well and are looking forward to seeing Ashley, the proud husband and father, as soon as he stops emailing the news to everybody in the universe. His shouts of “we’ve only gone and done it” will echo around the course at West Surrey GC for months to come. Congratulations to you all from all Surrey members.

Brian Willmott

Kent

As the much needed rain comes down in flowing torrents in this part of the world restoring some colour to our green and pleasant courses, we can all breathe a collective sigh of relief as the recent hot and dry spell had certainly started to take its toll on our non-irrigated areas! At least the fine weather has brought the golfers flocking back to our courses though. A very welcome sight in these difficult times.

One course that has definitely not suffered is The London Club which I have had the pleasure of playing today. Indeed, the course was still in its tip-top condition following its recent staging of The European Open which was a hugely successful event producing a worthy champion yet again. The tees, rough, bunkers and greens were all perfectly presented and a joy to play on. The only comment I can make on the too narrow (for me!) fairways was that they looked great from a distance! Think I’ll stick to yellow tees in future! A very praiseworthy effort from our esteemed National Chairman, Peter Todd and his trusty right-hand man Glenn Kirby. Incidentally, both these gentleman are the subject of further news. Firstly, many congratulations to Glenn and his other half on the birth of their daughter, Cerys. I know he was hoping to take some time to make the most of these precious early stages of baby’s development but, unfortunately, Peter has managed to break his leg while vaulting a fence meaning poor old Glenn has double the workload and half the required sleep! Get well soon, Peter and well done and thanks to Glenn.
Many thanks also to several supporting trade companies for prizes on the day. They were, Headland Amenity, Tacit, T. Parker, Scotts and Ernest Doe's.

These days just keep getting better. Don't miss out on our next event in September at RedLibbits. It's going to be a cracker!

Best of British
Rob Holland

**South West**

June 24th saw the first full Section event of the year with the Summer Tournament. This was played at Kingsdown Golf Club in perfect weather conditions, and on a perfect golf course. Mark Ford and his team did us proud on a tidy golf course with firm fast greens, generous fairways, (but rather punishing rough if you don’t mind my saying so Mark – I like my rough well cut-back!). Thanks very much to Kingsdown Golf Club for their hospitality for the day and thanks to all competitors who made the day such a success.

Congratulations to all the prize winners, in particular Josh Loughrey, from Wrag Barn, who shot a gross 71 off scratch to qualify for the National Championship at Burnham & Berrow in October. Thanks also to the Patronage Partners who attended the Dinner and prizegiving.


Unfortunately neither Chris Sealey nor myself were able to stay for the presentation etc, so many thanks to Nobby (again…) for officiating so well. In the meantime, Chris and I were travelling “up north” to Hoylake for Farmura-sponsored seminar covering the latest research on dry patch and fairy rings. The links at Hoylake (or Royal Liverpool pool to give its correct title) were in sublime condition with 30 yard wide fairways and a single cut of semi-rough either side, and then jungle type rough. Bunkers were immaculately revetted pits with turf faces up to six feet in height. Awesome and scary at the same time.

The seminar was very interesting with a series of top speakers from both the UK and overseas. Dr Mike Findanza, Agronomist, and Dr Joe Kostka, from Aquatrols. Both highly regarded experts in their fields, and neither one to walk past a fairy ring without stopping to take a picture. Couple these with Steve Isaac, of the R&A, and Dr Ruth Mann, from the STRI, and you have wall-to-wall experts. Our thanks to Farmura for laying on such an interesting day at such a notable venue. If all goes according to plan – these gentlemen will be back in the UK for the Cannington Seminar in November.

I was pressed into service at National Board level at the beginning of June when the news came though that Peter Todd had unfortunately broken his leg. I chaired the Board Meeting, the EGM & Groundsmans vote, and introduced the Neil Thomas Golf Day (where a lot of money was raised for Peter’s nominated “Aspergers Syndrome” charity). I sat down on the Monday evening at about 6.30, with the intention of having a few quiet moments to skim through the minutes of the previous Board meeting, ahead of the 8.30am start on the Tuesday morning. I was still at it at 11.30pm before calling it a night.

As I think I said last time – if anyone thinks serving on the BIGGA Board is some kind of a “jolly” – forget it right now. I would just like to pass on my best wishes to Peter – he does such a lot of work for the Association behind the scenes, while all the time handling a big job at a big club.

Talk in the Section – the training courses on Manual Handling, Safe use of tractor plus attachments, Excavator Safety Training are coming around fast. Full details will be circulated soon by email, and this will go into club offices also. The joint BIGGA GCMA seminar at the Kendleshire on September 30 is also fast approaching so watch for further details.

Finally, John Keenaghan is looking forward to playing host to the EGU English County Finals September 25 – 27 at Chipping Sodbury. This is the only club in Gloucestershire ever to have staged this event so John is – in his own words – “really up for it”. John would like to have the re-assurance of a support team to help with the course – if anyone can spare a little time and is interested to see how a major Amateur event runs, please give John a call on 07779479869.

Any news from your areas would be gratefully received.

Paul Worster.
paulw@mgcnew.co.uk

**Devon and Cornwall**

Our summer meeting took place on June 18 at Woodbury Park Golf & Country Club where the second annual match between Devon & Cornwall was contested. Thanks to Symbio and Sports Metal represented by Neil Carter and Richard Japes for their sponsorship for the day.

The match took place on the championship course and was very keenly contested with Cornwall eventually winning five games to three. There was also an individual Stableford competition within the match which was won by Nick Olds, from West Cornwall, with 41pts, winning on countdown from Simon Sanders, from Woodbury, with Brian Ridgeway, from Fingle Glen, third with 38pts. Nearest the Pin on the 3rd was won by Nick Olds, on the 18th won by Dan Townsend. Nearest the pin in two on the 13th was claimed by Matt Richards and the longest drive on the 14th won by Rob Cook, well done to all.

Thank you to Woodbury Park and its owner Robin Hawkins for their wonderful hospitality for the day, and to the catering staff for the splendid meal. Thanks also to Ian Chenery, Course Manager; Simon Sandford, his assistant, and the rest of the team for the use of there wonderful course.

The presentation and prize giving took place after the meal with the Devon Captain, George Pitts, congratulating joint Corn-
Hi Everyone, Hope you are all well. First of all the Spring Tournament, which was held at Langland Bay GC. The weather once again threatened and after a few holes, the rain subsided, the sun came out and showed the course in all it’s glory.

Results were: First: Darryl Jones (Glynnneath GC) 36pts.
Second: Ian Harwood (Langland Bay GC) 31 pts (21 on back nine)!
Third: Darryl Bray (Morriston GC) 29pts. Nearest the pin: Wayne Benger (Glynneath GC.) Longest Drive: Peter Holstrom.
Trade/Guest Prize: Alan Phillips (Captain, Langland Bay.) Thanks to Langland Bay GC for agreeing to hold the event and for the excellent evening meal. Also to Jim Jenkins, Course Manager, Ian Harwood and the rest of the Greenkeeping team for presenting the course superbly under difficult conditions. They had to have been without Ian for a while as he must have been practicing his golf! And I’m glad the day went well for Jim as it might just make up for his team getting relegated from the premiership last season!

Also a big Thank you to David Goldstone and Peter Lacey of Tower Chemicals for sponsoring the day. David was a bit unlucky in that his power caddy broke down and he wasn’t able to continue20 after the third hole. Rumour has it that that it didn’t break down and it was just a case of David not wanting to play in the rain. I’m sure that’s not true! Anyway, thanks guys! Our golf days would be very difficult without sponsorship.

Back to the R.T Matchplay Tournament (The Road To Tenby) and the draw for the latest round was as follows: 1. Mark Wilshire/Mark Anderton
2. Tony Horne/Martyn David.
5. Andy Roach/Gareth Knight V Darryl Bray/Leigh Davies or James White/Wayne Benger.

Results will be printed in next months around the green.

On Thursday 13th of August, St Pierre Golf and Country Club once again plays host to the match between the South West Section and the South Wales Section! (or Wurzels v The Taffs!) The South Wales Section are keen to bring the cup back to Wales after losing last years match, although technically, it stayed in Steve Chappell’s office as we didn’t trust the South West to bring it back!
The match will be played on the revamped Mathen course and prizes will again be sponsored by my mates Scots UK Professional. The South Wales Team shirts will again be sponsored by James Rees of Inscapes.

I predict that the South Wales team will win and that the South West team will moan about paying the Severn Bridge toll! They don’t mind paying for Magners though! Joking aside, I’m sure it’s going to be a great day!

Ceri Richards

South Wales

Hi David, It is a shame that he was not able to continue after the third "hole. Rumour has it that he didn’t break down, and it was just a case of David not wanting to play in the rain. I’m sure that’s not true! Anyway, thanks guys! Our golf days would be very difficult without sponsorship.

Back to the R.T Matchplay Tournament (The Road To Tenby) and the draw for the latest round was as follows: 1. Mark Wilshire/Mark Anderton V Tony Horne/Martyn David.
2. Steve Lloyd/Mark Wells V Paul Hundy/Rhys Norville.
4. Andy Roach/Gareth Knight V Darryl Bray/Leigh Davies or James White/Wayne Benger.

Results will be printed in next months around the green.

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Ceri Richards

South Wales
BIGGA is now a Limited Company

During the last few weeks the membership department have received telephone calls from some members who are concerned about the conversion to a limited company and were under the misunderstanding that BIGGA were in some sort of financial difficulty. I would like to take this opportunity to confirm that BIGGA is not in any financial difficulty, the decision to convert BIGGA to a company limited by guarantee was taken by the Board as it considered that such a structure would be advantageous to the Association. Some advantages of BIGGA Limited:

- The Association will have its own legal identity, allowing BIGGA Limited to enter into contracts under the name of BIGGA Limited rather than under individual names.
- BIGGA Limited will be liable for fulfilling any contracts to which BIGGA Limited is a party rather than individual members of the Board.
- Members have limited personal liability (up to a maximum amount of £1) for any outstanding debts should BIGGA Limited cease to trade and a contribution is needed to enable its debts to be paid, rather than unlimited liability as previously.

If you have not yet returned your application to transfer to BIGGA Limited please return this as soon as possible, even though it is past the deadline stated on the letter we can re-join you usually within a week of receiving your form.

BIGGA Membership Numbers on the increase

We are pleased to report that the slight downturn experienced in membership numbers has been halted and we are steadily back on the increase. We have received a lot of enquiries from past members who are wishing to re-join. Remember if you have been a member of BIGGA before, normally, there is no need to complete a new application form and go through the new application procedure, if your membership lapsed during the last 24 months, and you are still on our system, you can complete a renewal form and we can re-join you usually within a week of receiving your form.

BIGGA Membership Benefit of the Month

All full members of BIGGA, and their partners, have access 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to a legal helpline, where any personal legal matter can be discussed with a trained professional legal advisor.

If you need to ring the freephone number (0800 0177 7891 – this can also be found on the reverse of your membership card), remember to say that you are a member of the BIGGA Legal Expenses Scheme and have your membership number to hand.

As your Association continues to move forward remember those immortal words of George Bernard Shaw: “Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything.”

Other Useful Numbers

(Full Members only)

Personal Accident Helpline 02075 605013
Greengrowers Legal Assistance 0800 177 7891
Greengrowers Support Services 0800 174 319
Debt Counselling Helpline 0800 174319

Scottish Region
Craig Cunningham, West
Scott Dowling, Central
Bill Gaughan, West
Richard Jenkinson, Central
Ryan Marshall, West
Calum Stewart, North
Steven Wood, North

Northern Region
Daniel Bleiknosp, Northern
Jack Bryson, Northern
Graham Green, Northern
Christopher Morris, North West
Gary Pat, Northern
Kevin Paterson, North West
James Tannan, North West
Thomas Scott, North West
Tom Strong, Sheffield
Ali Underwood, North East
Tom Wood, Northern

Midland Region
Douglas Bagnall, Midland
Stuart Bailey, Midland
Oliver Boys, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Thomas Chester, Midland
Lee Cooper, East Midland
Nicholas Harding, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Terence Martin, Midland
Lee Mitchel, West, Lincoln
Liam Perry, Mid Anglia
Gary Simpson, Midland
Robert Elliott, Mid Anglia
Lee Wenlock, East Midland
Paul Williams, Midland

South East Region
Brian Allen, East Anglia
James Frash, East Anglia
Timothy Goffin, Sussex
Louis Hotford, Surrey
Nick Lamb, East Anglia
Eddi May, Surrey
Darron Mitchell, Sussex
Jacob Muries, Surrey
Sam Nates, East Anglia
Nicholas Plowright, Sussex
Craig Savidge, Suffolk
Charlie Sparks, Essex
Peter Staples, East Anglia
Dave Turner, Essex
Kimberley Yeldham, Essex

South West/South Wales Region
Lewis Andrews, South West
Robert Geen, South Wales
Kim Hazell, South West
Carl Holmes, Devon & Cornwall
Christofer Rawlings, South West

North West Region
Matthew Dyer, North West
Robin Hall, North West
Mike Harrison, North West
Nick Kitching, North West
Chris Langdon, North West
Liam Workman, North West
Peter Wrigley, North West
Jack Yeo, North West

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

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Greengrowers Support Services 0800 174 319
Debt Counselling Helpline 0800 174319
Assistant Profile

Each month we take a light hearted look into the life of an assistant greenkeeper...

Name: Matt Le Brun
Age: 21
Club: Ely City Golf Club
Position: Assistant Greenkeeper
Nickname: Rodzilla

How long have you been greenkeeping?
Just over 3 years

What was it about the career that attracted you?
Being involved in golf and having the opportunity to travel within the job

If you weren’t a greenkeeper what do you think you’d be?
Professional golfer (as I am always beating my brother who is an assistant pro at our club)

Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?
Hand cutting tees as I enjoy seeing the finished product and golfers always comment on them

Which task do you least enjoy doing and why?
Changing holes as I always end up doing it with the deputy head (ha ha!)

What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers’ lot?
Having the best equipment for the job

What are your favourite hobbies?
Golf, football and a night out with the lads

And your favourite band?
Haven’t really got a favourite but currently listening to Eminem’s new album

Which team do you support (football or otherwise)?
Arsenal, I was raised as a Gooner

What is your claim to fame?
Just got my third hole in one recently...

Jobs...Not just for Greenkeepers

A complete range of turf industry jobs are available on www.bigga.org.uk

With over 14000 visitors to our job pages every month
You are sure to attract the quality of candidate required

Make sure that you get the right person for the job - call Kirstin today on 01347 833832.

“I wish to thank the team at BIGGA for their help and advice in placing our advert on the BIGGA website. The good response to the advert will allow us to employ someone who we feel is ideally suited for the job.”

Tony Hawes, Course Manager, Potters Bar Golf Club
Dear BIGGA

Chances are you have concerns about the current economic climate - but what’s this got to do with maintaining your playing surface?

It is estimated that 40-60% of the overall cost of operating a typical golf course facility is related to turf maintenance. As a facility offering a natural playing surface, this may seem like an impossible balance to maintain. However, Greenkeepers and Course Managers need to work within given budgets and manage their finances carefully.

The ultimate natural playing surface is, however, the aim of every Greenkeeper. On an unlimited budget, life is certainly easier, but most Greenkeepers are working to a given budget and a surface requiring continual improvement. Recent weather conditions have stressed grass even more with heavy rainfall last summer, and rootzones stripped of vital nutrients in the autumn. Then the low winter temperatures and snow came to deplete grass carbohydrate reserves resulting in severe thinning of many fairways and greens.

Balancing the books, while maintaining a quality playing surface, has never been harder. It depends greatly on the Greenkeeper’s relationship with club committees for them to understand what hurdles have to be overcome to deliver a functioning facility. The Greenkeepers’ relationship with club committees for them to understand what hurdles have to be overcome to deliver a functioning facility.

In the last 18 months just about every cost in managing a course has increased, whether they be machinery equipment and repairs, fungicides, fertilisers, seed, irrigation or increased environmental and health & safety issues that courses are required to operate under to meet regulatory compliance. Then add in the prospect of reduced cash flow down to more golfers operating on pay and play rather the annual subscriptions and is it any wonder that turf management expenses costs are becoming an easy target for making immediate savings? On paper it looks like the sensible thing to do, but can you really afford to cut back on some of the essential inputs?

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Providing Satisfaction on a Budget

Simon Taylor
British Seed Houses
THANK YOU
Dear BIGGA

On Behalf of all at The London Club we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that was involved in the course preparations for the 2009 European Open. The pressure of a changing week was reduced a great deal by the help and quality of all the volunteers that travelled from all areas of the UK, giving us our own time to be part of what was again a very successful event. It was a pleasure working with you all, and hope that you all got as much out of the whole experience as we did. Once again a very big thank you, and look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Ben Adams and Mark Bell

FEEDBACK ON NEW FEATURE
Dear BIGGA

Your new feature ‘Candid in Camera’ gives Course Managers the opportunity to come clean with their darkest thoughts without fear of exposure. Not surprisingly, the first instalment unearthed a charming specimen who describes his biggest problem as his staff and who elected not to stick up for them because he had a mortgage to pay. Presumably he was unconcerned about the mortgage of the "really nice bloke" whom he casually fired of his own volition with no pressure to do so from the club. He described himself as a manager rather than a shop steward but surely the best course managers combine elements of both disciplines? In my experience, managers who regard their biggest problem as their staff would be well advised to start by taking a good look at themselves. This bloke has got the staff he deserves.

Mick Travis

THANK YOU
Dear BIGGA

I would like to thank the Learning and Development department at BIGGA, as well as David Withers and all at Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd, who have provided their time and funding for my Foundation Degree in Sports Turf Science and Management. My Continuation of personal development and the step to higher education would not have been possible without Ransomes Jacobsen's kind generosity. I look forward to notifying you of my progress along the way.

Thank you once again for providing me with this opportunity.

Greg Knight, Assistant Greenkeeper, Abridge Golf Club

HARRY DIAMOND MEMORIAL QUAICh
Dear BIGGA

Looking out of my window, at 6am, to a dreadful miserable morning, my thoughts were of a wet day's golf at Belleisle. I should have had more forethought. Ayr Belleisle is a good hour's drive from Henzie, and with the extremities of weather we get in Scotland, expecting the same weather 40 miles away, "and at the coast", is nearly asking for a miracle. Arriving at Belleisle, at 8.15am for the usual Shot Gun start at 9.00am, the weather had improved to the extent, that the golfers milling around before going to their respective tees, were more intent in covering their golf clubs than themselves. The Diamond Family were all in evidence, attending to the organisation of the usual Stableford Competition. All the young Diamond Girls were assisting, to keep everyone on the move and in getting the Golfers to their allocated Teeing Ground, before the sounding of the starting horn. Another exceptional and pleasant day's Golf, with golfers, young, medium and old, "some very old", remarking how much they looked forward to this day in particular. The Après Golf took the same format as in past years, with free beer and a free raffle ticket given to all who played that day. I have to remark on the prizes presented at the raffle, not the usual bottle of wine, or a couple of golf balls - two nights at a hotel for two, bottles of Johnnie Walker Black Label whisky, an expensive wall clock and others, too numerous to mention. As usual, Harry's family took part in the presentation, his daughters were to the fore, as were his Grandchildren, in the organisation of the whole event. Harry's two brothers, Hugh and Campbell, handled the prizes to the deserving winners. The Quaich was presented by Harry's wife, Jessie. Again exceptional scoring by the winners J. Dickson, B Ablatt, and M. Owens, who turned a remarkable 95 points. The Diamond Family, extend their thanks to all who participate in the Quaich, and a special debt of gratitude to the donors, or cash, cheques, and prizes, which is the backbone of any well organised Golf Competition. Another successful and enjoyable day to the Memory of and exceptional Greenkeeper and dear Friend, Harry Diamond.

Cecil George, Lenzie
PORTERS WOOD GOLF COURSE
9 HOLES – Pay and Play

Opening to the public – July 2009

Porters Wood Golf Course has been developed from existing farm land near Shevington Village, nr Wigan, ideally situated near M6 and M58 motorway links, the course is a 9 hole pay and play suburban course measuring 1,424 yards and consists of seven par-3’s and two par-4’s. Every one of the 9 holes offers a unique challenge, golfers of every ability are sure to be tested.

The course is built using the finest materials. It offers all year round play on its USGA modified greens, sand/soil based tees and wide well drained fairways, all seeded with the highest specification grass seed.

Porters Wood Golf Course used local Contractors wherever possible to work on the course, including Duncan Ross Land Drainage Ltd.

As part of the original construction work a series of collector drains was installed pre-construction to provide outlets to ponds, bunkers and Fairways. This was a very cost effective method of installing the main collector drains, the fairway drainage was then added after the grass was established, this enabled the Contractor to strategically place the drainage where it was required also preventing the drainage being contaminated by cultivation work thus improving infiltration rates. The work was completed with no disruption to the playing surface as a result the course opened as planned in early July this year.