Midland Region

Sheffield

Well March seemed to disappear as fast as it arrived. We are now well into preparations for the new season and I hope the weather has been kind to us and all our courses are ready for the battle.

Firstly, I would like to put a shout out to any keen cricketers among our ranks. Mike Brear, of Rigby Taylor, has kindly organised the Sheffield Section Vs Rigby Taylor cricket match for this summer (Date TBC).

The match will take place at Phoenix Sports and Social Club and will be a family event so feel free to bring the wife and kids. There will be a BBQ and bar available.

If anyone is interested in playing, or wants to attend, then get in touch with either me or Mike himself. Mike has told me he has pretty much sorted his side so we have some work to do.

I was talking to my Gordon the other day and he informed me that he was getting an extra member of staff for the summer. Sachin, I think his name was!

Fixture cards for this year’s golf should have arrived at your doorsteps, if not you will have them shortly.

Thank you to Peter Fell, and Atkin, for supplying the fixture cards once again.

Unfortunately that’s all for April but remember if you like cricket get on the phone and get your place in the team reserved.

For now and have a good April.

Jim Stevens
07738719614
jimmy_jams20@hotmail.com

East Midlands

Hello all,

I am afraid I am rather busy at the time of writing this, so apologies for the brief nature of this update from our Section!

Mid February saw the Section take to the track in a Toro-sponsored go karting event. A total of 22 brave souls turned up ready to test their driving skills at the indoor Wymeswold track. Split into two heats with the slowest from each heat taking part in a Losers’ final, then the fastest in a Grand final. We all feared the worst when one of our members turned up ready to race “Stig” style with his own helmet and overalls, We soon realised this was just a trick to try and scare us out of the way!

What we realised was that those of us who had “listened to the rules” about no bumping or indeed, like me, are carrying much weight were always going to be racing in the now renamed Heavyweight Final, as opposed to the Flyweight Category Final who had been able to whiz around the track at breakneck speed unhindered by weight!

In the Heavyweight Final Sam Voss, from Forest Hill, took third place; Andy de Wet, second, and yours truly in first place, I feel at this stage I would like to apologise to Gary Thurman. Why? By his own admission Gary had become a bit like a slow moving chicane on the track, and after the first heat I realised that rather than sitting behind Gary for three or four laps it was far easier to “give him a little nudge” at the hairpin, sending him into a spin, I think I used this method five times in the final “Sorry Gary”.

In the Flyweight “Racers” Final, Adi Porter, from Greetham, took third; Matt Greetham, took second; Matt Lowe, from Woolaton, took second, with racer supreme Stefan Carter, from Forest Hill, taking the podium honours.

It should also be said that it was noted by many that some of the participants in the “Fly-

Name: Kevin Moore
Age: 23
Club: Garforth Golf Club
Position: Assistant
Nickname: “The machine”

1. How long have you been greenkeeping?
5 ½ years

2. What was it about the career that attracted you?
The thought of working in an outdoor environment.

3. If you weren’t a greenkeeper what do you think you’d be?
Would of liked to be a professional sports man.

4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?
Woodland Management and Greens Projects.

5. Which task do you least enjoy doing and why?
Raking bunkers and ditching.

6. What would improve the greenkeepers’ lot?
The development of young greenkeepers.

7. Hobbies?
Darts, Cricket, Rugby League, Golf and sport in general

8. Favourite Band?
I am a fan of R&B music

9. Which team do you support?
Castleford Tigers

10. Your claim to fame?
Going to Super league Grand Final and having pictures took with some players.
weight”. Final were sin bined for bad driving, I can only dread to think of the state of the equipment in the sheds of these guys clubs! You know who you are! I think a great time was had by all so may thanks go to Andy Humble, and Tor, for their sponsorship, and I think we will be returning to the track again soon.

Finally, by now I hope that you have all got your entries in for the Spring Competition, and the first part of the BIGGA National have all got your entries in for soon.

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South West and South Wales

South West

Hello people, I trust that you are all well. As I sit down to write this month’s Section Letter, I find that we are now in March. Firstly I ask myself, where has the beginning of 2011 gone? Secondly, why is it still so cold, 0.5, my car read this morning, as I was driving to work! I think you’ll all agree with me when I say, “Spring! Where is spring?” Just picture it now, the warmer weather, lighter evenings, and beer gardens. Time for me to book my holiday!

During March, you would have been aware that the EGU, was holding a number of road shows around the country, titled “GOLF ENVIRONMENT”. Sponsored by John Deere. Having one of them held at Minchinhampton New course and attending this myself, it’s safe to say that it was a rather worthwhile event. I wonder how many of you take into consideration the fact you could help reduce the carbon footprint, help the environment, help to save energy…..but what I think is most important…..HELP SAVE MONEY! We all know to turn a light switch off when leaving a room, but are you aware that we could be doing so much more, without really changing anything. Think about it guys and help save your club some money.

Back to the Section, we have recently been having many Workshops for you all. Manual Handling and Chainsaw training has just taken place more recently. Subsidy and CPD points were rewarded for both of these, ensure that you also receive the same benefits by getting involved. It’s great when everyone tells me what they want, and trust me, I’m trying to ensure that everyone is catered for.

Very shortly we have our first Section fixture coming up, the famous AM/AM at Chippenham Sudbury GC. So invite you Secretary/Manager, your Green Chairman or even your best mate who lives next door to you. This is always a great fixture in our diary and always a great time for everyone to get together. I look forward to seeing everyone at Chippenham Sudbury on Thursday, April 14. Do your bit to help get the 2011 fixture list of to a great start.

As always, please feel free to contact myself at anytime, even better still, forward me on a short story about what’s happening up your end. See you soon

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As always, please feel free to contact myself at anytime, even better still, forward me on a short story about what’s happening up your end. See you soon

adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk
07732503855

South Coast

Hello everyone, welcome to April’s Around the Green. There is not a lot of Section news to report on at this present time. However, our last committee meeting did bring up a few points for discussion, Firstly with regret that our Section seminar had to be cancelled in February as we, were unable to get a firm commitment date from guest speakers. It was a great shame for me personally as it was to be held at Milton Abbey School, and it was a chance for me to show you all, what life is like at the School.

We have decided that in October this year we will try and put the Seminar back on, it will be held on the half term of the school which is October 19-30. A day has yet to be decided, but it look forward to welcoming you all to Milton Abbey School. Let’s hope the snow hasn’t fallen by then.

We also discussed how as a Section we could communicate better when organising our golf tournaments, although a flyer is put out for each tournament per-
haps the use of Facebook would help the younger greenkeepers in the Section communicate better between one another, we do have our own South Coast Section Facebook page so do have a look and see what is happening. I hope that our Spring Tournament flyer in may will be put on Facebook for members to view, I hope that this way we may get more support for our golf tournaments. So just to give you all an early reminder our spring tournament will be at Liphook GC, on May 19. This will be an 18 hole Stableford, and is the qualifier for this year’s National Championship, although a fair distance to travel for some Section members, please try and support the day.

For me life at Milton Abbey is constantly changing, we are going full co-ed in September 2012 and two new boarding houses are too be built this summer which is really exciting news for the school as we look to expand and develop. Our school farm is also developing and expanding, more horses, sheep, chickens, pigs the list continues. My job description seems to be changing from day to day.

Well a happy Easter to you all, let’s hope that the Premiership title race is still open, when you read this, Chelsea can still do it I think!

Joe Cooper

I hope that by now the growing season has just started and you have got the old Paladin and Allen National oiled up and ready to go!

First, some news about forthcoming educational events for this month.

On Thursday, April 7, the Section will hold its Annual Education Seminar at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club. Sponsors for the day will be Frank Sutton and Powercufc, John Deere’s distributors for South Wales. Thanks in advance to them.

Among the speakers will be Ian Booth of John Deere, Richard windows and Paul Woodham, of the STRI. Also BIGGA’s, Tracey Maddison and Sami Collins, will travel down from HQ to give a presentation about the Association and its future aims. It looks like being an interesting day. Price for the day is £20 which includes coffee on arrival and the usual excellent buffet lunch. Contact Steve Chappell to reserve a place.

Still on education, the winter series of evening lectures concludes at Cardiff GC, on Wednesday, April 15. Head Greenkeeper, Nigel ‘Dan’ Harden will host a course walk where he will show us the work that has been carried out on the course over the past few years, including some greens reconstruction. This will be followed by a presentation by Adrian Masters, of Headland. This event will start at 5.30pm and is once again sponsored by Countrywide. Thanks again to them.

Don’t forget the IOG Annual Dinner And Dance, which this year is back to its traditional venue of The Swalec Stadium and is on Friday, April 15. Give Steve Chappell a ring if you would like to attend.

Congratulations to David Jakeway, Course Manager at Bryn Meadows Golf Hotel & Spa, who recently became the proud father to a little girl, Daisy May. All the best to you and your partner Rachel from the Section, although you will probably be too tired to read this!

That’s it for now. Next month I should have the dates for the spring golf competition and other forthcoming events. Have a great April and Easter.

PS. A big good luck to William and Kate for their forthcoming wedding. I know I didn’t receive an invite (it might still be in the post) but you can still come to the IOG dinner. Just remember to bring a raffle prize.

Your Humble Servant
Ceri Richards

Devon and Cornwall

Hello all,

A Section meeting was held at Warren GC, Dawlish Warren, on Wednesday, February 9. 50 attendees enjoyed either a Course walk or an Individual Stableford Golf competition. John Welsford, Course Manager, kindly led the course walk...
around what is a very unique environment to manage. The Warren is built on a sand bank peninsula that is home to rare species and is deemed an SSSI rated site.

John explained how the club is restricted in terms of what management practices are and are not allowed. The fairways in particular receive little or no maintenance due to restrictions including not being able to use seed in the divot mix! They have also undergone some extensive gorse removal to encourage heather regeneration, guided by Natural England.

Despite this, reasonable free draining site, at High Tide it is subject to flooding and John explained defences put in place to combat the issue of rising water levels, including a newly installed pump, pumping water back out to sea. The course and, in particular, the greens were in fantastic condition for the time of year! Congratulations to John and his team!

The golf on the day was won by Deputy at the Warren, Patrick Twitchen, with 41 pts, second was Greg O’Reilly, St Mellion, with 40 pts and third was Mark Tucker, Saunton, with 39 pts. Nearest the Pin went to James Tucker, Saunton, with 39 pts. The Tie’s excellent Surrey Section performed extremely well, with the organisation of the day. January saw the loss of one of our oldest members, Mr Caleb Charles Moore. Mr Moore passed away on January 5, aged 96.

Having been involved with clubs in the Midlands, He retired to the area and became a member at East Devon GC and became a Life Member of BIGGA. George Pitts Section Secretary BIGGA Devon & Cornwall 07929 754401 gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com

South East

Surrey

I have heard it said, although I don’t know by whom, that we all have a book or novel inside us just waiting for the right moment to pop out. I, at this moment, would be pleased if I could think of just a few lines for this edition!

Thank goodness then for the Gentleman’s Dinner at Walton Heath GC on March 4. I am pleased to confirm that John Hunt, Addington Palace GC, is this year’s winner with a magnificent gross 69. The nearest I come to a 69 is the number on the front of my meagre dwelling and not you know what. Tony Bremer was the other Surrey member to win a prize by coming 2nd in the 11 to 20 handicap section. The event concluded with an After Dinner Speaker whose name now escapes me together with all his jokes.

Have you read Ron Christie’s excellent Surrey Section Newsletter 2011? He started by thanking John Ross for having been a worthy Chairman and committee member for many years and welcoming Les Howkins as our new Chairman. Ron then asked for volunteers to contact Ian McMillan, at Walton Heath GC, if they could help at the British Seniors competition July 21-24 ianmcmillan@waltonheath.com. Rising costs will increase the price of members golf events to £25 ensuring that the committee’s annual ‘away day’ to the south of France is not affected.

Surrey won the Annual Sussex v Essex v Surrey at The Three Rivers CG in Essex and due to an absentee, I played for Sussex. The next paragraph in Ron’s newsletter is not worth the read and the mention of Your’s Truly was most hurtful. Gareth Roberts reached the top of Kilimanjaro and any extra sponsorship will greatly help the Autistic Children Charity. Finally, who is that good looking chap in the visor? No it’s not Ian Pealor or Darren Clark, it’s one of your committee. If you know, write the answer on a £20 note, give it to me and it will go to the Autistic Children Charity. Brian ‘Regair’ Willmott

Essex

February and March are normally quite months for the Section, so for that reason I don’t have very much to report, though the following has been put in place by the Section committee.

Education. Our first in a series of One Day courses has started with a First Aid course, which was held at The Burstead Golf Club, in early March. Once announced it did not take many days for it to fill up and another is planned shortly and may even have passed. We are also looking to run other One Day courses in the near future, so if you have any ideas or you need a specific course, then please contact Ian Wood, our Education Officer, by email: ian.wood@romfordgolfclub.co.uk

Golf. The new golf season is nearly upon us and our first venue is at Forrester Park, Thursday, May 5, for the Spring Trophy.

The fixture book will be out mid April and entry forms will be available in this book, they are also available for download from the website. Don’t forget to get your entries in early for this event.

Football. Our football match against the Sussex Section is on the Monday, May 23, at Upton Park, home to West Ham United Football Club, we have a list of players willing to play and trials are underway to pick the team. Kick off is at 2pm.

Social Networking. If you have been following things on the website you will have noticed that we now have a Facebook site and are also on Twitter. Both are Essex Bigga to log in.

Website. By the time you read this, I should have finished the new look website and have it up and running.

If you have anything for inclusion in the Greenkeeper International or on the Sections Website www.essexbigga.co.uk please contact me on 07764-862.337 or at essedbigga@talktalk.net

Arnold Phipps-Jones
Press Officer & Web Master
## Diary of Events

Details of your Section's forthcoming events in 2011 can be found here...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APRIL 2011</td>
<td>Cleveland Section Spring Tournament</td>
<td>Middlesborough Golf Club</td>
<td>Ian Pemberton at is <a href="mailto:pemberton@ntlworld.com">pemberton@ntlworld.com</a> or telephone 07791 695768</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 6th</td>
<td>East Midlands Spring Golf Day</td>
<td>The Nottinghamshire Golf &amp; Country Club</td>
<td>Andrew de Wet at <a href="mailto:biggaeastmidlands@hotmail.com">biggaeastmidlands@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 13th</td>
<td>North West Section Event</td>
<td>Hesketh Golf Club</td>
<td>Chris Sheehan at js <a href="mailto:heehan@blueyonder.co.uk">heehan@blueyonder.co.uk</a> or telephone 07840 706738</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 13th</td>
<td>North Wales Section Event</td>
<td>Denbigh Golf Club</td>
<td>Jeremy Hughes on <a href="mailto:jezpro69@aol.com">jezpro69@aol.com</a> or telephone 07876 776265</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 15th</td>
<td>North East Section Event</td>
<td>Newcastle United Golf Club</td>
<td>Jimmy Richardson at james <a href="mailto:richardson217@btinternet.com">richardson217@btinternet.com</a> or telephone 07500 528542</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 19th</td>
<td>East Scotland Section Spring Meeting</td>
<td>Craigielaw Golf Links</td>
<td>Stuart Ferguson at <a href="mailto:stuferg@btinternet.com">stuferg@btinternet.com</a> or telephone 07961 630553</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 20th</td>
<td>Northern Section Spring Tournament</td>
<td>KP Golf Club, Pocklington</td>
<td>Frank Stewart at <a href="mailto:frankstewart3@hotmail.co.uk">frankstewart3@hotmail.co.uk</a> or telephone 07947 401278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 21st</td>
<td>South West Section</td>
<td>Chipping Sodbury Golf Club</td>
<td>Adam Matthews at <a href="mailto:adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk">adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk</a> or telephone 07732 503855</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAY 2011</td>
<td>BIGGA v's GCMA</td>
<td>Glasgow Gailes Golf Club</td>
<td>Peter Boyd at <a href="mailto:pj.boyd@btinternet.com">pj.boyd@btinternet.com</a> or telephone 0141 161 3440/07776 242120</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 25th</td>
<td>East of England Section Event</td>
<td>Immingham Golf Club</td>
<td>Bruce Hicks at <a href="mailto:brucedhicks1@gmail.com">brucedhicks1@gmail.com</a> or telephone 07931 714922</td>
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<tr>
<td>JUNE 2011</td>
<td>South West Section</td>
<td>Long Ashton Golf Club</td>
<td>Adam Matthews at <a href="mailto:adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk">adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk</a> or telephone 07732 503855</td>
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<td>June 8th</td>
<td>North West Section v's North Wales Section</td>
<td>Heaton Moor Golf Club</td>
<td>Chris Sheehan at js <a href="mailto:heehan@blueyonder.co.uk">heehan@blueyonder.co.uk</a> or telephone 07840 706738</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 16th</td>
<td>Northern Section – Presidents Day</td>
<td>Moortown Golf Club, Leeds</td>
<td>Frank Stewart at <a href="mailto:frankstewart3@hotmail.co.uk">frankstewart3@hotmail.co.uk</a> or telephone 07947 401278</td>
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<td>June 22nd</td>
<td>North West Section Summer Tournament</td>
<td>Grange Park Golf Club</td>
<td>Chris Sheehan at js <a href="mailto:heehan@blueyonder.co.uk">heehan@blueyonder.co.uk</a> or telephone 07840 706738</td>
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<td>June 29th</td>
<td>East Midlands Section Summer Golf Day</td>
<td>Cavendish Golf Club</td>
<td>Andrew de Wet at <a href="mailto:biggaeastmidlands@hotmail.com">biggaeastmidlands@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<td>June 30th</td>
<td>South West Section Summer Tournament</td>
<td>Knowle Golf Club</td>
<td>Adam Matthews at <a href="mailto:adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk">adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk</a> or telephone 07732 503855</td>
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**zero-turn, maximum efficiency**

**zero-turn mowers & accessories recommended**

**call 01480 455151, email grasshopper@reco.co.uk or visit www.reco.co.uk**
BIGGA have negotiated an exclusive deal with Tastecard, the nation’s largest dining club. A Tastecard gives you access to the most incredible deals at over 4,500 restaurants nationwide. Participating restaurants range from PizzaExpress, Cafe Rouge, Bella Italia, Zizzi, ASK, GBK, STRADA and La Tasca to Marco Pierre White and everything in between!

Each restaurant featured offers either 50% off the total food bill or 2-for-1 across all courses (even for groups of more than two diners in most cases).

You can purchase a full year’s membership at an exclusive BIGGA rate of £29.95 plus VAT (RRP £69.95).

NB: prices are frequent to change due to manufacturer campaigns, but examples of contract hire and purchase can be obtained from emailing membership@bigga.co.uk.

Social Networking

Many of BIGGA’s Sections now have a Facebook page or group, if you are a member of Facebook go and ‘join’ or ‘like’ a section group or page and keep up to date with what’s going on locally not to mention the friends that you can make online through these Facebook groups.

Membership Subscriptions 2011

From April 1, 2011 membership subscriptions will be:

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<thead>
<tr>
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<td>Full Member – Category 1A</td>
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<td>Full Member – Category 1B</td>
<td>£77</td>
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<td>Associate Member – Category 2A</td>
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<td>Associate Member – Category 2B</td>
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<td>Student Member</td>
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Other Useful Numbers

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<td>Personal Accident Helpline</td>
<td>02075 000013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenkeepers Legal Assistance</td>
<td>0800 177 7891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenkeepers Support Services</td>
<td>0800 174 319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt Counselling Helpline</td>
<td>0800 174 319</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BIGGA welcomes the following new members

Scotland

Derek Adams, East Section
Frans Ahorna, Central Section
Ott Avango, North Section
Ronald Nice, Ayrshire Section
Michael Glenie, North Section
Alan Cheadon, Centre Section
Alfred Grand, Central Section
Conor Hennessy, North Section
Anthony Marr, Central Section
Christopher McChes, Ayrshire Section
Hubert Richards, Central Section
Andrew Richards, Central Section
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Cascading goals means breaking down the organisational goals into a series of smaller goals that describe what each unit or department needs to achieve. These goals are then broken down further until each individual in the organisation has their own performance goals. In this way, progress throughout the organisation is measurable.

1. Cascading goals

Definition

A cascading goal describes a measurable outcome or result that needs to be achieved.

Teams and individuals throughout the organisation need to be briefed about what the goals are and what they should do to help achieve them. This requires a management process to be in place that cascades top-level goals down through the organisation.

The formation of goals that set out what a business is aiming to achieve is a key part of business planning. To agree individual goals (see ‘How to Develop an Appraisal System’, and ‘How to Prepare for an Appraisal’). What is important is that you get it right for your organisation.

In some areas of the organisation, it may be enough to cascade goals down to the team level (e.g. in administration or production teams where they work together more as a team than as individuals). For some it is more appropriate to cascade goals down to the individual level.

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The Buyers’ Guide article in the February’s magazine stated that the Royal Dornoch Course Manager had been in post for 10 years.

Bob Mackay would like to point out that he, in fact, was Course Manager at Royal Dornoch until 2005.

We would like to apologise to Bob for the inaccuracy.