East of Scotland

The Spring Outing was played over Craigleith Golf Links on the 19th of April and the weather was sunny and calm just as it was ordered. Course Manager, Mark Reid, and his staff extended the links although some tricky hole positions were mentioned. A huge thanks to all the staff at Craigleith for the hospitality shown to our section. Some 24 handicap players attended the event amongst those the Scottish Chairman, Stuart Taylor scored an excellent 72 (33/39) with three putts (well done Stuart) scores as follows: Brush Walnut, Philip Butler, Murryfield GC, 72. 1st Class Winner. Grant Moran, Morar- tonhall GC, 68; Nett; 2. Dean Cunningham Mortonhall GC, 69; Nett. 2nd Class Winner. Mylrie, 70; Nett; 2. Robbie Murdock, Dunbar Parks GC, 76; Nett. Best Nett Ian, Kelso GC, 69; Nett; Veterans Prize, David St Swithin, Seaheouses GC, 75. Net Dale Prize. Hugh Fraser, Husdy Golf Ltd, 69 Nett (BBG); Longest Drive 4th hole, Ian Lander, Thomas Sherriff Nearest to Pin at Hole 10 - Philip McCulloch, Gauldry GC. Congratulations to all! Jimmy Nelson, Vice Chairman, delivered the After Dinner speech, which went down very well in my absence. Thanks to Jimmy, and nice to see Jimmy Combe playing with Jimmy for 16 holes. Both still have tremendous golf swings!

The Spring Outing was held over Preston St Cuthbert’s on April 26 on what was more of a summer’s day, the driest April on record believe! The turnout for the day ahead was poor although given the good weather following the Easter weekend it’s maybe not surprising for the eating. I personally think he’s been a little side tracked by a certain young lady he’s not - but these are purely rumours! Niall, full credit to you and your squad for presenting the course in the way you did - just toasting perfectly. We had a good turn out as usual and I think that everyone that was there will confirm what I said that the weather and the course made their day.

Here goes with the results: Nearest to Pin, Gary Tough, Gary Tough and Neil Saddler. Sweep. 1. Richard Watt; 2. Gary Tough; 3. Gary Tough; 4. Jimmy McCormack; 5. Benjamin Hardy. Congratulations have to be in order please get in touch as the draw and results will be sent out.

North

Firstly, may I apologise for there not being any notes last month’s edition. The plain and simple answer as to why this was that there wasn’t any news from the biggest Section in Brit- ish Open and at Congressional for the outing. I personally think you were just a little bit of a small package, I do have any news please contact me on 07713 899374 or email me at benbrooker@yahoo.co.uk. Happy Greenkeeping Ben Brooker

West

By the time you read this the sun will be scorching the surfaces and you will be either present and the golfers will be full of praise for your gallant efforts to provide good putting surfaces no matter what. Niall, full credit to you and your squad for producing excellent surfaces year in year out.

I hope that is the case, but sadly it seems that the greens are harder as budgets are cut each year and more demands are put on the staff. Good long putting surfaces no matter what. Unfortunately times are get- ting more difficult as courses lose members and clubs are unable to budget properly due to an unpredictable income, I just hope things improve over the coming years or we may see some clubs fold or even change to Pay and Play.

Sorry to be Mr Doom and Gloom, but our industry is sad- ly things are harder and our staff have to hope that more people will turn out for the Autumn. Other thank yous were to the Steward on the meal. It was said that it was the best meal we had for a long time.

To the sponsors, who once again did us proud, those being Jimmy Jams Shorts, Rigtly Taylor and finally Tony McFay, of TM Anietries. Well done to the rest of the team and hard lines Secretaries for producing such a close game, thanks to Brian Dickinson and his staff at Gailes for producing a lovely course and the members of Glasgow Golf Club for allow- ing us to play the course. Special thanks must go to Colin Powrie, Manager, Colin Powrie, and his staff for the remarkable condition of the course. It is a privilege to play the greenkeepers considering the weather we had this spring for a 100 years.

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Congratulations have to be in order please get in touch as the draw and results will be sent out.

Hello all,

Sorry I missed last time, I’ve been quite busy and the dead- line passed before I noticed. I’m sure you will all forgive me! I hope all who played at Sicklheels GC enjoyed the day and I’m sure the boys at Sickl- heels will have had the course in great condition. A full report from Sicklheels GC will be in next month’s edition.

I’d like to say that I’ve been inundated with members want- ing to make the final squad for our cricket match against Rigby Taylor but sadly I haven’t. If anyone is interested in play- ing please get in touch as the selectors need at least a couple of weeks to get the right balance in the team.

A BBQ and bar will be avail- able on the day so bring the family and make a day of it.

We will shortly be asking any members if they would like to play in the Annual Sheffield vs. Northern match for further details and if anyone is inter- ested in playing please get in touch.

I would like to welcome our new Chief Executive, Jim Croston.

I think we are all excited at what changes will be made to the organisation and how Jim will move BIGH forward in the future.

Over the years our job has changed dramatically with the advent of new equipment and the extremely high and sometimes unreal expectations of golfers. Gone are the days of setting in the sheds on wet days, courses and Committees want their pound of flesh.

What is it they say? The customer is always right, which means I hope all of you have a good season and look forward to your comments because I’m sure some people will disagree and I might even get a few phone calls. Enough of the banter let’s get onto the stuff in hand, I attended the Annual match against the Secretaries at Glasgow Gailes on the 19th in which we once again were victorious, but I have to say not due to my efforts.

Well done to the rest of the team and hard lines Secretaries for producing such a close game, thanks to Brian Dickinson and his staff at Gailes for producing a lovely course and the members of Glasgow Golf Club for allow- ing us to play the course.

To the sponsors, who once again did us proud, those being Jimmy Jams Shorts, Rigtly Taylor and finally Tony McFay, of TM Anietries. Well done to the rest of the team and hard lines Secretaries for producing such a close game, thanks to Brian Dickinson and his staff at Gailes for producing a lovely course and the members of Glasgow Golf Club for allowing us to play the course. Special thanks must go to Colin Powrie, Manager, Colin Powrie, and his staff for the remarkable condition of the course. It is a privilege to play the greenkeepers considering the weather we had this spring for 100 years. It wasn’t the ideal start to a busy season ahead but with Peter and one of his staff playing we managed to reach double figures for the first time this year! I think you were just a little bit of a small package!
 would have thought that by the end of April we would be desper- ate for a good rain. If we get one, together with the si- nistal spring temperatures, we will be able to watch the grass grow. On April 20 we held our Spring tournament at the KP Club Podlickey, with the pressure and the Section I would like to thank the members of the KP Club for courtesy of the course, and the bar and catering staff for a thoroughly fine meal. Great meat. We would also like to thank Keith and his staff for presenting the course in such a good condition.

There events cannot take place without sponsorship, so we would like to thank Sherri sexemail for their sponsorship, as they had a good turnout on a sunny day, and it was nice to see a few new faces.


All of the boys at Scrutton were great on the day, and the best way that you can support your banker and friend- ler too. But even then you will all hope of course see us all again next year. You and of course on the day, you all will have to come to Grand Hotel, class- some- one got to finish the crossword Captain, but don’t forget the subscriptions.

The Section’s Spring Education Training Day was held by the South Midland Region. A. Johnsons Seed where a visit took place on April 13 to DLF Trifolium Grove, Roundhay, Leeds. A. Johnsons Seed, Gloucester Street, Southwood, South Shields, has donated a presentation, DLF breeding, DEFF’s experience, Everything you do not know about turfing. After a coffee it was on the course to the grass training and to survey the most of the most popular cultivars as straight and question the breeders.

After lunch it was on to follow the street go on the seed and try to see many of the most popular cultivars as straight and question the breeders.

Lunch was on to follow the street go on the seed and try to see many of the most popular cultivars as straight and question the breeders.

A great day out was had by all, and our thanks to Derek Blackham and Nigel Tyler, of Sherhoff Amenity, for arranging the day.

The 2010 final of the Scotts Cup was held on April 1 at the impressive Wensum Club. The day was re-arranged due to injury by one of the finalists last year and was finally contested by John Guayle and Steve Scott, from North Warwickshire GC, and Richard Herrman and Gary Turner, from Wirksworth GC.

After a pulsating final it was the pair of Richard Taylor and Richard Tyrom using a new to the market of the carrier pigeon and the market of the carrier pigeon, which included lunch in the historic- tical clubhouse before play, and dinner in a pub by the course after play.

All, a big thank you to Chris John, and the Wentworth Club, for allowing us to try out the new greens on the course for the first time. This is the most wonderful prize and will of course come and see us all who have entered this year.

This month’s calendar sponsor’s are Whitewoods who, as you did not know, produce and provide turf dressings, root zones, sands etc. that can be tailored to your specifications.

One of the websites: www.whitewoods-eco.co.uk

Or you can call our old friend Gary Smith and Nigel Tyler, of Sherhoff Amenity. For the final three days it rained during the Ryder Cup held.

You can have too much of a good thing, and an opportunity to see many of the masses have the pressure and the harshest winters and driest

sprinkler that is spewing a verti- cal jet that is destined for the meanest. (So many, however, of many have learnt to cope with antecedents with less air pressure and less air pressure, as they have a good mix of poa and agrostis, and that your roots down a mile. I have been trying too much of a good thing.

I have just returned from a trip to France, and I am still trying to get my head around what is going on. I am not sure if I am going to like the food, the wine, or the rugby.

I can only hope that by the time you read this month’s notes it has washed a gosip, please pass it on to me:

Frank Stewart 72 West Park

2. F. Stewart; 3. G. Street.

Scratch Trophy.  A Baxter,  Div

8. Hobbies?

3. Name:

4. Which task do you most like?

5. Which task do you least like?

6. What is your age?

7. Construction (creative)

8. What type of event does your club host (for example, tournaments)?

9. Which team do you support?

10. What is your claim to fame?

Assistant Profile

Our monthly look into the life of an assistant greenkeeper...

Around The Green

Midland Region

Midland

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would have thought that by the end of April we would be desper- ately for a good rain. If we get one, together with the slightly sil- verspring temperatures, we will be able to watch the grass grow.

On April 20 we held our Spring tournament at the KP Club Podick, which had the pressure and the Section 1 would like to thank the KP Club Podick for the offer of the club for courtesy of the course, and the bar and catering staff for the food. It was a good turnout and good meal. We would also like thank Keith and his staff for presenting the course in excellent condition.

There events cannot take place without sponsorship, so we would like to thank Sherriff Amenity for their sponsorship, and the new faces.


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presenting us with such a great

Spring tournament at the KP midland region

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I can only hope that by the end of this month’s article I think many of you

to over-water the greens.

area just back to being able to

springs on record.

the Ryder Cup and many of

peratures for years, that, along with a constant easiness, and the course looks like mid-

May hasn’t really started any better although storms are expected at the weekend, we will see.

The Section is very quiet at the moment. They met on April 13 to discuss event which have the pressure and possible venues for next year’s golf. As always if you are interested in any events, please contact the person on the committee know.

This year’s seminar will be at 6pm on Thursday 11th July with a new venue with a different approach. We will talk about the work that goes on there. More details will be published later.

Some good news from the Ian Nolan is back in greenkeeping, he is the Head Man at Fairley Golf Centre, we all look forward to seeing him back. Red Deaneon was back on track, Alton went into recuperation late last month, and Ken McMillan has bailed it out and they are again trading.

Bartons have a aer-

nosed by Avoncrop in memory

For some time now we have been looking forward to seeing the Ryder Cup week!

A huge thank you to Lewis

Note

name: Martyn Lumb

age: 40

Position: Assistant Greenkeeper

Nickname: Two Bellis

1. How long have you been greening? 10 years

2. What do you think the better you have a good

3. If you aren’t a greenkeeper what do you think you’d be? Gardening

4. Which task do you most enjoy doing? Maintenance

5. Which task do you least enjoy doing? Weeding

6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the conditions for your job?

7. Regular thanks

8. Hobbies? Golf and cinema

9. Which team do you support (Football or otherwise)? Manchester United

10. What is your claim to fame? Met Andy Stanton and gave him five golf balls
**South West**

This past month, we held a classic Section event...was the return (apart from last year’s) of the “SOUTH WEST SECTION AMAM”.

We had this very special event at Chipping Sodbury GC which was again in very fine condition, a great credit to all those involved at Chipping Sodbury. This event is special to us because it allows us to bring our friends from the outside the Association, a fine opportunity to show how professional BIGGA is.

The event was a great success, with more than 40 players, including some faces that we’ve not see recently...great to see you all and we hope to see you all again at the next event!

The evening meal was amazing...buffet style curry and I promise you, the dessert tray was incredible, even heaven was jealous of this one. I had to hit the gym after a couple of helpings, my bad!

To the results, in third place with 40pts (after countback), Darren Mostard, from Newport, and runner Jerry Nash. In second place with 41pts, Chris Sealy and his partner Pete Scanlan from Torquay.

The 2011 “South West Section AMAM” winner...with an impressive 44pts, John de’ath from Exmouth and runner David. Your support is very much appreciated by the whole Section.

Remember that we also have our own South West Section Facebook page, proving to be very useful, only for it to grow as more of you become involved.

If you are not a member of the page, it’s time you were, ask for the link and I’ll happily forward it to you.

See you all very soon.

adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk

**South East Region**

Many thanks to Gareth Roberts and Jim Russell for last month’s entry and their memo ries and trickles of information.

The result of the Texas Scramble at Epicom GC on March 31 was: First: P. Marney, A. Foulds, J. Cushing and loudly supported by same gay named Dave. Runners Up were T. Bremer, A. Freeman, I. Sellers and Richard. Wey. The most important, nearest the Pin, was won by R. Christie and the Longest Driver was D. Nardowski.

All prize winner first names have been written in to protect them from begging letters. Kevin Boxer has now become our man in charge of golf days and we were all pleased that his first event was entirely well attended and excellently organised.

The kind hearted person who gave Kevin a present of an undeveloped shell, still in its original shell wrapping, as he was crossing one of the many roads must be greatly appreciated as that car did not stall and personnel receive Kevin’s thanks.

The result of the Micklin GC Golf Day will appear in July’s edition but I am sure that I will do well, for my golf is much improved as can be vouched for by my Surrey Bowl partner Paul Winston. Although I very narrowly to our first round opponents, Messrs Freeman and Sealy showed us a sight and rewarding future for our new OAPraving.

Please let us know of any interesting news or special events or else the next edition will focus on our forthcoming cruise to the far reaches of the Byzantine heritage. Turkish delights, the Galata Bridge experience and the beauty of the Bosphorus.

Be warned and Bon Voyage Brian Willmot

**Essex**

Ken

Sorry but this needs to be a rather short report this month as I’m very glad to report that I’ve gone surfing sending in my people for diving for cover! Bob is also the Manager of Rushmere.

Must say though that since leaving my old employ I’ve been enjoying playing much more on a few different courses so watch out for me on the summer knockout tournament!

By the time you read this you would have just played our early summer event at Koodle Park. Many thanks to Gavin Kyle and his team for hosting this much anticipated event for us. For all those of you who are playing in our Kent Summer Pairs Knock- out, please do your best to get at least one round in each month and report the result to me or Kevin so we can draw the next round.

Just leaves me to say thanks again to all my fellow professionals out there and see you on a course real soon.

Best of British Rob Holland
gusamar@hotmail.com

**Devon and Cornwall**

Hello all,

A bit of a quiet time for us, so much to report! We do have our annual “Devon v Cornwall” match on Wednesday 15th June at Dart- mouth GC.

Cornwall are on a bit of a run by winning the last two years running, so it is Devon’s turn to be victorious this time! Home advantage should help rather than having to travel to the dark side!! Can you tell which County I am from yet?

We look forward to seeing Terry Parkinson and his team at Dartmouth and I am sure that they will be going to be in fan tastic condition.

The golf will commence at 12.30pm and the prize giving at 2.00pm. This will be followed by a BBQ on the terrace and a George Piss.

Dress code will be informal afterwards as long as it conforms to the club rules. (No shirt and tie required)

We have reached you by now, so if you can contact me asap to secure a place. George Pitt

South East Region Section Secretary

BIGGA Devon & Cornwall

07791 754404

ggta.yeverton@gmail.com

**Kent**

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Just leaves me to say thanks again to all my fellow professionals out there and see you on a course real soon.

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gusamar@hotmail.com

**Excess**

Another quiet month in the Section.

Sorry to everyone who took the trouble to cancelled the scheduled Spring Trophy to be held at Forrester Park Golf & Country Club, on May 5. The entries were very poor when the closing date arrived, so to be fair to the clubs the decision was made to cancel the event. We suspect the poor entry could have been due to the abundance of Bank Holidays at that time.

We would like to thank Forr erster Park Golf & Country Club Manager, Roland Hughes, for being so understanding and allowing us to cancel at such a late stage.

Section Knockout Trophy: The first round of the Knockout must be completed before Wednesday, June 22, which is our next golf day at Vauxhall Golf Club. Entries are on line or in the future book. The draw for the next round will take place on that day! The following matches are on the website along with the slots you get per team.

Home team to arrange the match. Match 1 - Played at Colchester Golf Club, Sam Cook and Craig Arndell v Andy Cracknell and Neil Prachay; Match 2 - Played at Bentley Golf Club, Stephen Adams and Nick Thompson v Richard Hare and Ben Scrivener; Match 3 – Played at Three Rivers Golf and Country Club, Barry Mann and Sam Anderson v Mark Stoppa and Mark Keywell; Match 4 – Played at Stotide By N eyeland Golf Club, Liam Springrett and Iain Close v Olle Honesund and Dan Crow; Match 5 – Played Upminster Golf Club. Dougie Foreman and Paul Oune v Tom Smith and Anthony Kirwan; Match 6 – Played Thornton Park Golf Club. Bob George and Jeff Taylor v Andy Darnell and Lee Stephens; Match 7 – Played Romford Golf Club Ian Wood and Mark Sevres v Sam Farrow and Craig Stephens - Byers – In the draw for round 2 Stewart Rogers and Steve Coxins

If you have anything for inclu sion in Greenerkeeper Interna tional or on the Sections Website www.essexbigga.co.uk please contact me on 07764-862 337 or at essesbigga@talktalk.net

Arnold Phipps-Jones

**Section Notes**

**BIGGA Regional Conferences**

All forthcoming conferences are as follows...

**REGION**

South East

**DATE**

South East & South West

16 November 2011

South Scotland

Oaktree Area, Highbridge, Somerset

30 November 2011

Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline

6 March 2012

**LOCATION**

Stock Brook Manor Golf Club, Essex

**CONTACT**

Steve Godwin, 01371 818543

June-Jones, 01454 270850

Peter Boyd, 0141 616 3440

BIGGA Regional Conferences
The 2011 “South West Sec-
REGION DatE LocatIoN coNtact

BIGGA regional Conferences
All forthcoming conferences are as follows...

REGION
South East
South West & East Devon
Scotland

DATE
16 November 2011
17 November 2011
6 March 2012

LOCATION
Stock Brook Manor Golf Club, Essex
Oatree Area, Highbridge, Somerset
Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline

CONTACT
Clive Ogwood, RA 01377 819343
Jane-Jones, RA 01454 270850
Peter Boyd, RA 0141 616 3440

www.essexbigga.co.uk please contact me on 07764-862 337 or at essessexbigga@talktalk.net

Arnold Phipps-Jones

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Section Knockout Trophy:
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Stewart Rogers and Steve
Crossman

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Arnold Phipps-Jones
Membership

Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update.

Membership Benefits Update: Renew Online

Many members are now taking advantage of being able to renew their membership online, through the BIGGA Website using a secure online payment facility; this is for existing members to renew their individual membership online.

Details and instructions are below, you will have had to register on the BIGGA website members area with your membership number, email and password in order to proceed.

1. Step One – make sure your BIGGA account is activated, if you have not registered on the revised BIGGA website you will need to do so, type the following URL into your browser http://www.bigga.org.uk/login if you have already registered that’s fine, go to Step Two, if not click on ‘Activate my account’ button to be taken to your account.

2. Step Two – once you have an active account type the following URL into your browser http://www.bigga.org.uk/login or to activate/where you can activate your account.

   [Note: If your membership has expired your account may not be active, contact the Membership Department.]  

   [Note: If your membership has expired your account may not be active, contact the Membership Department.]

BIGGA Lending Library

Can’t book the library you require in your local library or College Resource Centre? Why not check the library listings to see if the BIGGA Lending Library stocks the title you are looking for? The lending library is available to ALL BIGGA members, allowing them to borrow up to two books for up to six weeks, the only cost is return postage.

Finally….Help you Associa- tion grow by discussing the value of your BIGGA membership with your friends and colleagues and encourage them to join. Every time you recruit a new member, you strengthen BIGGA.

For more information on new members log in to the Members’ Area of the BIGGA Website.

Section and Region Events

Visit the ‘Event’s Section’ on BIGGA’s website to have a look at what’s on around the UK. www.bigga.org.uk select ‘EVENTS’ from across the top row.

Somebody asked me the other day if it was possible to be a member of two Sections, unfortunately, not, but that’s not to say that if you would like to attend an event in a different Section just contact the Section Secretary and ask, I’m sure you would be made most welcome.

After all, each Section is about the same thing, meeting new people, establishing new friendships and maintaining old ones, at the same time as discussing all things greenkeeping and turf.

1. step one – make sure your BIGGA account is activated, if you have not registered on the revised BIGGA website you will need to do so, type the following URL into your browser http://www.bigga.org.uk/login or to activate/where you can activate your account.

2. step two – once you have an active account type the following URL into your browser http://www.bigga.org.uk/login or to activate/where you can activate your account.

JUNE 2011

Date     Event              Venue       Contact
June 8th South West Section Long Ashton Golf Club Wayne Vincent at wayne.vincent@otawholfords-golfclubs.co.uk or telephone 07958 620590
June 15th Scottish National Golf Tournament Dukes Golf Club Peter Boyd at pj.boyd@btinternet.com or telephone 0141 616 3440
June 16th North West Section’s North Wales Section Heaton Moor Golf Club Chris Sheehan at jashehan@bigwayonder.co.uk or telephone 07947 401278
June 16th South Wales Golf Section Day Neath Golf Club Steve Chappell at Chappell 124@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 07970 980899
June 22nd Northern Section – Presidents Day Moctown Golf Club, Leeds Frank Stewart at frankstewart3@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 07947 401278
June 22nd Essex Section Summer Trophy Competition Nazing Golf Club Dominic Rodgers at domiadson@gmail.com or telephone 07798 641529
June 29th North West Section Summer Tournament Grange Park Golf Club Chris Sheehan at jashehan@bigwayonder.co.uk or telephone 07947 401278
June 29th East Midlands Section Summer Golf Day Cavendish Golf Club Andrew de Wet at biggaestmidland@hotmail.com
June 30th South West Section Summer Tournament Knowle Golf Club Adam Matthews at adam.m.matthews@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 07732 503855

JULY 2011

Date     Event              Venue       Contact
July 6th North West Section Cricket Tournament v’s North Wales Section Ashley Cricket Club, Altrincham Chris Sheehan at jashehan@bigwayonder.co.uk or telephone 07840 706738
July 6th South Wales Section Summer Competition Wenovse Castle Golf Club Steve Chappell at chappell 124@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 07970 980899
July 11th Midland Section Summer Golf Day Kenilworth Golf Club Andrew Smith at andy smithace@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 07977 145091
July 12th Essex Captains v’s Greenskeepers Rodford Golf Club Dominic Rodgers at domiadson@gmail.com or telephone 07798 641529
July 13th South Coast Section Summer Competition Breconhurst Golf Club Chris Ritten at chrisharriett@hotmail.com or telephone 07796 887633
July 13th East Midlands Section Par 3 Championships Naiotne Hall Golf Club Andy de wet at biggaestmidland@hotmail.com
July 14th – July 17th Open Championship Royal St George’s www.opengolf.com/
July 21st Inter Section Golf Match – Northen’s v’s Sheffield Renishaw Park Golf Club Frank Stewart at frankstewart3@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 07947 401278
July 28th East of England Section Event Blake Rockford Golf Club Bruce Hicks at brucehicks1@gmail.com or telephone 07951 714922

More dates for your diary next month

July 2011

Date     Event              Venue       Contact
July 6th North West Section Cricket Tournament v’s North Wales Section Ashley Cricket Club, Altrincham Chris Sheehan at jashehan@bigwayonder.co.uk or telephone 07840 706738
July 6th South Wales Section Summer Competition Wenovse Castle Golf Club Steve Chappell at chappell 124@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 07970 980899
July 11th Midland Section Summer Golf Day Kenilworth Golf Club Andrew Smith at andy smithace@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 07977 145091
July 12th Essex Captains v’s Greenskeepers Rodford Golf Club Dominic Rodgers at domiadson@gmail.com or telephone 07798 641529
July 13th South Coast Section Summer Competition Breconhurst Golf Club Chris Ritten at chrisharriett@hotmail.com or telephone 07796 887633
July 14th – July 17th Open Championship Royal St George’s www.opengolf.com/
July 21st Inter Section Golf Match – Northen’s v’s Sheffield Renishaw Park Golf Club Frank Stewart at frankstewart3@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 07947 401278
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More dates for your diary next month

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More dates for your diary next month
Membership

Membership Benefits Update: Renew Online

Many members are now taking advantage of being able to renew their membership online, through the BIGGA Website using a secure online payment facility. This is for existing members to renew their individual membership online. Details and instructions are below, you will have had to register on the BIGGA website members area with your membership number, email address and password in order to proceed.

1. Step One – make sure your BIGGA account is active, if you have not registered on the revised BIGGA website you will need to do so, type the following URL into your browser: http://www.bigga.org.uk/login if you have already registered that’s fine, go to Step Two, if not click on ‘Activate my account’ button to be taken to http://www.bigga.org.uk/login/activate/ where you can activate your account.

2. Step Two – once you have an active account type the following URL into your browser: http://www.bigga.org.uk/login/activate/ where you can activate your account.

3. Step Three – once you have logged in go to the Members’ Area of the BIGGA Website.

Show your name, membership number and category of membership including the amount that needs to be paid. [NOTE: if this is not correct please contact the BIGGA Membership Department before continuing]. Enter your billing address then click next step and follow the on-screen instructions. Once completed BIGGA will be advised that a payment has been made and we can process your membership accordingly.

Any queries or problems please contact the BIGGA Membership Department on 01347 833800 select option 1.

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BIGGA Lending Library

Can’t find the book you require in your local library or College Resource Centre? Why not check the library listings to see if the BIGGA Lending Library stocks the title you are looking for? The lending library is available to ALL BIGGA members, allowing them to borrow up to two books for up to six weeks, the only cost is return postage.

Finally...Help your Association grow by discussing the value of your BIGGA membership with your friends and colleagues and encourage them to join. Every time you recruit a new member, you strengthen BIGGA.

More dates for your diary next month

DIARY OF EVENTS

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

Date  Event  Venue  Contact

JUNE 2011

June 6th  North West Section Cricket Tournament v’s North Wales Section  Ashley Cricket Club, Atcham  Chris Sheehan at josh@bigga.co.uk or telephone 07840 706738
June 7th  South Wales Section Summer Tournament  Nolatoe Hall Golf Club  Andy de wet at biggasouth/wales@hotmail.com

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July 11th  Midland Section Summer Golf Day  Kenmore Golf Club  Andrew Smith at andrewsmith6@gmail.co.uk or telephone 07977 145091
July 12th  Essex Captains v’s Greenkeepers  Romford Golf Club  Dominic Rodgers at damasongreenkeepers@gmail.com or telephone 07798 641529
July 13th  South Coast Section Summer Tournament  Breakenhurst Golf Club  Chris Britten at chrisbritten@gmail.com or telephone 07796 887633
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July 28th  East of England Section Event  Stoke Poges Golf Club  Bruce Hicks at brucehicks1@gmail.com or telephone 07931 714922
A Quick Guide to Working Abroad

Ever considered working abroad? It’s an exciting prospect and something which a career in greenkeeping does present the opportunity of doing, but how do you make sure that you gain the most from the opportunity of doing, but in greenkeeping does present abroad? It’s an exciting prospect.

Got a criminal record? If you have a criminal/driving/drug record, forget about applying to go overseas.

Get references. Good written references, as that is all you have to market yourself.

Do your research. Many British people call up and want to go work in America, and they have never been here. Do your research on the economy, the job market and the feasibility of getting a management job. And when possible, visit the country first, before making such a huge commitment.

Set your sights. It’s easy to get an internship, but not possible, visit the country first, before making such a huge commitment.

Student/Backpacker? If you go on a structured programme, many of these issues can be taken care of. For example, in America, the Ohio Program provides free software to help you do your taxes online, on time and you are advised on how to prevent overtaxation.

Do your taxes. If it’s going to be a backpacker and they treat you like a backpacker. If you have experience, don’t expect that experience to be respected. You will be like grunt labour and given whatever job is needed to be done.

Be flexible. Management jobs are difficult to get into but if you’re willing to be flexible, many courses are attracted.

Like long hours? Be prepared to work long hours, many countries do not have the bank holidays or days off that you’re accustomed to in Britain.

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Mike O’Keeffe, who runs the Ohio State University Internship programme offers some tips...

Know the visa rules and tax laws

• First of all, make sure you know the visa rules and tax laws for the particular country you’re entering.

Get a criminal record?

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Get references

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Do your research

• Many British people call me and want to go work in America, and they have never been there. Do your research on the country first, before making such a huge commitment.

Set your sights

• It’s easy to get an internship, but not easy to get a management job in most countries.

Prepare a CV

• Prepare a CV, ideally a one pager, with a clear cut photo included with clear cut goals in the first paragraph. No one cares about your O level or A levels, keep it brief and to the point. Adding a clear cut photo is not necessary but it helps a lot. Use proper English, no text speak, and make sure you double check your spelling.

Do your taxes

• Don’t blame the host country, as right now, hundreds of British and Irish and other nationalities are flocking to countries with easy visas. It’s a big money maker for those countries, as they charge higher ‘emergency taxes’ and many students don’t bother to do their taxes, which is a shame. Do your taxes and you may get quite a sum of money back.

Get free assistance

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In a relationship?

• Think carefully if you’re in a serious relationship about leaving your girlfriend. Many places can only house single guys.

Be flexible

• Management jobs are difficult to get into but if you’re willing to be flexible, many courses are attracted.

Like long hours?

• Be prepared to work long hours, many countries do not have the bank holidays or days off that you’re accustomed to in Britain.

Student/Backpacker?

• Be careful if you’re a student, as some countries now regard you as a ‘backpacker’ and they treat you like a backpacker. If you have experience, don’t expect that experience to be respected. You will be like grunt labour and given whatever job is needed to be done.

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In the last 26 years, Inturf has developed an unrivalled reputation for innovation and technical prowess in the Golf course market, establishing a niche in the ‘Custom Growing’ of turf and producing a turfgrass material that can be matched to any construction profile.

The company is a founder member of the Turf Growers Association (TGA), the only independent body overseeing turfgrass quality and that drives up standards in our industry. Inturf is Quality Assured and has close affiliations with BIBGA, IOG, and BAii.

It offers a wide variety of different Golf Course turf in conventional square metre rolls or our Big Roll format for prepared surfaces extremely accurately at a much faster rate than standard small rolls with fewer joints that will assist establishment.

For advice or information please call 01759332100 or email alex@inturf.co.uk or stephen@inturf.co.uk.