Around The Green

Dear all,

Our annual AGM will be held at the Bungay Golf Club on Tuesday, March 27th. The meeting will start at 8.30am and the evening lecture will begin at 7.30pm. All members are welcome to attend.

The AGM will include reports from the committee and a discussion of the proposed new constitution for the BIGGA South West Section. The election to the post of Education and Development Committee member and the vote of confidence in the current management of the BIGGA South West Section will also be held.

Following the AGM, the evening lecture will be given by Simon Barnaby from the Bigga Devon & Cornwall Section. The topic of the lecture will be the history of BIGGA and its role in promoting golf in the country.

Please note that there will be a £5 entrance fee for non-members, which includes refreshments.

Any questions or comments can be brought to the meeting.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Chairman

Exe Golf Club

At long last we managed to get our 2010 AGM and Christmas Team Event on the road. Held on January 27th at The Exe Valley Country Club, 60 competitors faced the starter for a shotgun start at 10am. The weather was very cold, with a strong wind blowing in from the north.

The day started off well, until a few small flurries of snow started to fall, not enough to settle and cover the ground though. Visions of the heavy snows of December seem a distant memory.

As far as the evening lectures are concerned, I think we’ll stick to Pencoed and biscuits! The downside is that we have to find a place that gives free tea and biscuits! The upside is that there is a lack of refreshments at some of these events so we have the opportunity to try new places and the “refreshments” and “refreshments” as it were. I say ‘probably’, as I have had a few calls asking if I will be there. I say ‘probably’, as I have had a few calls asking if I will be there. I say ‘maybe’, as I have had a few calls asking if I will be there. I say ‘sure I would have a phone call if I will mention them. Phases presented by Forsyth are suggested but not taken pictures of. We will do better next year.

The Speaker for March is Mr Martin Harriott, who will be doing a talk on events at last year’s Ryder Cup. Obviously not a talk to be missed, as it was a great event! If you are interested please contact Mark Barnard on mark@bentleygolfclub.co.uk

South Coast

Hello and welcome to all our South Coast members, at the start of the season and the dawn of a new year. The weather during the snows of December saw a dis- tac}\n
Devon and Cornwall

Hello all!

Our January meeting will be held at the Exe Valley Country Club on Tuesday, January 12. A wet, windy and snowy day, beered with Sex and violence, is a great way to start the year. We had an excellent turn out, with a good mix of members and guests. The weather was very cold, with a strong wind blowing in from the north.

As far as the evening lectures are concerned, I think we’ll stick to Pencoed and biscuits! The downside is that we have to find a place that gives free tea and biscuits! The upside is that there is a lack of refreshments at some of these events so we have the opportunity to try new places and the “refreshments” and “refreshments” as it were. I say ‘probably’, as I have had a few calls asking if I will be there. I say ‘maybe’, as I have had a few calls asking if I will be there. I say ‘sure I would have a phone call if I will mention them. Phases presented by Forsyth are suggested but not taken pictures of. We will do better next year.

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South West and South Wales

Newspo...
Download and learn

How to conduct a one-to-one meeting
How to conduct a team briefing
How to prepare for an appraisal
How to recruit the right staff
How to write a job description

“How To...” guides are now available exclusively to BIGGA Members, on a range of Human Resource topics.

These short, handy guides provide practical, step by step guidance on a range of subjects. The guides can be downloaded and used to help you develop your knowledge and implement new processes within your workplace.

To access the “How To...” guides, log on to the BIGGA Members Area at www.bigga.org and click on Member Resources.

Assistant Profile

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

Name: Jamie
Age: 22
Club: The Luffenham Heath Golf Club
Position: Assistant GreenKeeper
Nickname: Jimmy

1. How long have you been greenkeeping?
Five years at the end of January 2011

2. What was it about the career that attracted you?
The beauty of nature which provides us with the finest British golf courses

3. If you weren’t a greenkeeper what do you think you’d be?
I have no idea, couldn’t imagine myself not being a greenkeeper. Would have to be something in the industry but have no idea what.

4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?
There are many aspects to be enjoyed but the general housekeeping tasks such as mowing the roughs and maintaining the drainage ditches around the course are what I enjoy.

5. Which task do you least enjoy doing and why?
Would have to be cleaning out the drainage ditches around the course. The reason for this is because we only really do this through the winter months and this time of the year it’s to bloody cold to be standing in a ditch with a shovel removing slurry mud and any other debris that finds its way in.

6. What one thing - other than pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers’ lot?
Clean and hygienic facilities for staff to enjoy their break etc. Providing good facilities will help motivate staff. Who wants to eat a dust filled sandwich whilst listening to the sound of the triple mower at break time? If you have horrible sheds and useless machines why would staff want to go out and carry out their duties?

7. Hobbies?
Golf, fishing

8. Favourite Band?
Bon Jovi

9. Which team do you support (football or otherwise)?
I support my legs because they carry me through my job. Otherwise I support MUFC!!!

10. What is your claim to fame?
I don’t have a fame to claim as of yet. Maybe one day though.
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**Membership**

Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update

Preferential rates on Toyota HILUX vehicles to BIGGA Members

BIGGA has teamed up with Jemca Business Centre, London suppliers of Toyota and Lexisu to offer BIGGA Members preferential rates on outright purchase or contract hire of Toyota HILUX vehicles.

Jemca is an established car dealership group based in the South East, in and around London which has years of experience and is proud to be part of London’s prime Toyota and Lexus car retailer group. Jemca’s growth has been based on its key strengths; outstanding commitment to customer service, which is reflected in their continually high customer satisfaction ratings across their services. Although based in London this offer is open to all BIGGA Members in the UK.

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.

Redundancy

If you are finding yourself a possible casualty of the current economic crises then make sure you brush up on your rights. If your employer is thinking about making you redundant, they should consult with you before making a decision. If you think you are risk from redundancy, here’s a suggestion of what to do to prepare yourself:

- Check for any state help after redundancy
  - Once unemployed you may be entitled to state benefits such as Jobseeker’s Allowance or Income Support. To find out what you can claim you will need to sign on at your local Jobcentre.
- Planning your finances
  - Contact the Debt Helpline (free to members of BIGGA). If you are likely to be out of work for an extended period, check to see if any of your loans have payment protection insurance attached that may cover your mortgage interest repayments or other loans.
- Finding your next job
  - Contact BIGGA to ensure your membership is kept valid so that you can take advantage of contacts and networking as much as possible.
  - Visit the Members’ Area of the BIGGA Website where you can find more information and useful websites to visit – another membership benefit of being a member of BIGGA.

Section Events

Don’t forget to keep checking the EVENTS Section of the BIGGA Website where you will find information on all the section events throughout the year. If you would like to attend an event outside of the section you are in, just contact the Section Secretary for information. The details of all the Section Secretaries can be located in the ‘Contact Us’ and ‘Contacts List’ and select ‘Section Secretaries’.

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

Other numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal accident</td>
<td>0800 177 7891 (Full Members only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and care</td>
<td>0800 177 7891</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional services</td>
<td>0800 177 7891</td>
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<td>Social services</td>
<td>0800 177 7891</td>
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<td>Business operations</td>
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<td>Employment and training</td>
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<td>Sports and leisure</td>
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<td>Corporate services</td>
<td>0800 177 7891</td>
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<td>Relocation services</td>
<td>0800 177 7891</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel and leisure</td>
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<td>Services</td>
<td>0800 177 7891</td>
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<td>0800 177 7891</td>
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BIGGA welcomes the following new members

Scottish

- William Nicholson, North Section
- Northern Region
  - Neil Henderson, North West Section
  - Peter Larter, South West/South Wales
  - Peter Larter, Northern Region
- Midland Region
  - Neil Henderson, Central Section
  - Neil Henderson, East Midlands Section
  - Neil Henderson, Midlands Section
- South East Region
  - John Mee, London Section
  - John Mee, East Anglia Section
  - John Mee, Kent Section
- South West/South Wales
  - Simon Park, South West Section
  - Simon Park, South Wales Section
- Overseas
  - Johannes Beaton, Solihull Section
  - Johannes Beaton, Western Section

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

GOOD REASONS TO CHOOSE A WEST COUNTRY STEEL BUILDING

- West Country Steel Buildings is an authorised distributor of Capital Steel Buildings, the leading producer of cold rolled steel buildings in the UK and Ireland. Working together we give fantastic service and clever design.
- This allows West Country Steel Buildings to provide you, the customer with the very best, cost effective buildings designed specifically to suit your needs.
- Our success is based upon several factors. Firstly we have built up over the last 45 years a fantastic reputation around the UK for our professional and friendly service. Secondly, we have experienced staff for both design and construction with a proven record of accomplishment.
- From advice on location, design and planning permission through to informing you of delivery dates and when the assembly team will be at your site to erect the building. At West Country Steel Buildings we value you, the customer and enjoy giving a fantastic service from the very start of your project to handing over the keys once everything has been completed.

WEST COUNTRY STEEL BUILDINGS

For further information: Office: 01633 782684 Chris: 07980 818364 Rob: 07970 872085

15, High Cross Road, Rogerstone, Newport, NP10 9AE
email: sales@westcountrybuildings.com
website: www.westcountrybuildings.com
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Know your rights

Employers are legally obliged to follow strict procedures when making redundancies, make sure you know what the procedure is. Contact the legal helpline, a benefit provided to all FULL BIGGA Members.

Contesting your employer’s decision

You have the right to appeal against your redundancy. If you have grounds to dispute your employer’s redundancy decision you can take your case to an employment tribunal.

Check for any state help after redundancy

Once unemployed you may be entitled to state benefits such as Jobseeker’s Allowance or Income Support. To find out what you can claim you will need to sign on at your local Jobcentre.

Planning your finances

Contact the Debt Helpline (free to members of BIGGA). If you are likely to be out of work for an extended period, check to see if any of your loans have payment protection insurance attached that may cover your mortgage interest repayments or other loans.

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Membership Subscriptions 2011

In April 2009 BIGGA streamlined the membership categories from over twenty to eight categories to simplify administration and reduce confusion. In 2010 BIGGA were able to freeze the membership subscription rates, however, from April 1 2011 membership subscriptions will have a slight increase. Details will be in next months column and on the BIGGA Website shortly.

• West Country Steel Buildings is an authorised distributor of Capital Steel Buildings, the leading producer of cold rolled steel buildings in the UK, and Ireland. Working together we give fantastic service and clever design.
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www.westcountrybuildings.com

15, High Cross Road, Rogerstone, Newport, NP10 9AE
email: sales@westcountrybuildings.com
website: www.westcountrybuildings.com
in the shed

Our monthly puzzle page to keep you entertained when you’re forced indoors.

MonSTeR SUDoKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 4x4 box contains the numbers 0 to 9 and the letters A to E.

Across
9 National anthem of the world’s second largest country (1,6)
10 Superhero alter ego of Tony Stark (4,3)
11 1990s indie music movement (7)
12 The Beatles’ final studio album (3,2,2)
13 Capital city of Iceland (9)
15 Tomb (5)
16 2000 film by Christopher Nolan that is told backwards (7)
19 Of the same family (7)
20 Suckle (5)
21 Robert, Twilight’s Edward Cullen (9)
25 The largest city in Sri Lanka (7)
26 Doctor Who companion played by Karen Gillan (3,4)
28 Most woe (7)
29 Passage selected from a larger work (7)

Down
1 Device fitted to cars in Australia to protect against animal strikes (3,3)
2 Flesh and blood (6)
3 A plucked musical instrument (4)
4 Garry Kasparov’s main rival throughout the 1980s (6)
5 Taker of the only 19 wicket haul in a Test match (3,5)
6 Italian painter of The Birth of Venus (10)
7 Variety of quartz, violet in colour (8)
8 Spent, but not endowed (8)
9 Dutch painter of Girl with a Pearl Earring (3,7)
10 Tailless felines (4,4)
11 US State with Baltimore its largest city (8)
12 Opposite of ‘Darn Sarf’ (3,5)
13 Location of the annual University Boat Race (6)
14 Language used in Bratislava (6)
15 27 The abominable snowman (4)

Puzzle Answers on page 73

BIGGA Regional Conferences

All forthcoming conferences are as follows...

REGION DATE LOCATION
North Midlands To be announced To be announced
Midlands 30 March 2011 Newark Golf Club

BE SEEN BY THE BIGGA MEMBERSHIP

Make sure your wealth stays with your family after you die

WRITE A WILL

York FM Ltd (BIGGA’s pension administrators) offers the following...
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Please call 01904 767377 for details
Contact Gareth Wigdahl or Graham Carver for more information

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16 Tailless felines (4,4)
18 Opposite of ‘Darn Sarf’ (3,5)
22 Location of the annual University Boat Race (6)
23 Language used in Bratislava (6)
24 Undress (6)
27 The abominable snowman (4)

CROSSWoRD SUDoKU
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 9 box shape contains the numbers 1 to 9.

Across
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22 Location of the annual University Boat Race
23 Language used in Bratislava
24 Undress
27 The abominable snowman

QUICK ’N Ine Hole’ QUIZ
6 Which is the shorter journey – Turnberry to Royal Lytham or Turnberry to Carnoustie?
7 Which is the longer journey – Carnoustie to St Andrews or Royal Lytham to Royal Birkdale?
8 Is it more or less than 600 miles between Carnoustie, the northerly most Open venue, and Royal St George’s, the southern most?
9 To the nearest 30 miles, how far is it from Royal John O’Groats to Land’s End GC?

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGION</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>FOR FURTHER DETAILS, CONTACT...</th>
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<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
<td>Peter Larter, Regional Administrator, 01476 550115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midlands</td>
<td>30 March 2011</td>
<td>Newark Golf Club</td>
<td>Peter Larter, Regional Administrator, 01476 550115</td>
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BE SEEN BY THE BIGGA MEMBERSHIP

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Contact Gareth Wigdahl or Graham Carver for more information

Puzzle Answers on page 73
It’s a colourful world

Flag poles; flag sticks; flag pins; flag accessories; hole cups; putting cups’ hole cutters; hole trimmers; tee markers; flags; logged flags; wavy flags; air flow flags; printed flags; embroidered flags with your tee markers; flags; logoed flags; wavy flags; air flow It’s a colourful world

for now we will continue cutting perfect holes with the twin what doesn’t, “says Andrew. They all have their own personal view of what looks good assistant greenkeeper, to the bar staff, and the club member. It’s a colourful world says Andrew Acorn 01925 757005

“We talk with everyone from the Secretary, to Pro, to the assistant greenkeeper, to the bar staff, and the club member. They all have their own personal view of what looks good what doesn’t,” says Andrew. “I’m awaiting for the launch of the Hydraulic hole cutter that is on a mechanical arm of a green machine which does the job without a bias and which may or may not arrive. But for now we will continue cutting perfect holes with the twin bladed holemaster or one of our HIO impact cutters for that professional tournament finishes.” Andrew Acorn 01925 757005

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It’s a colourful world

Flag poles; flag sticks; flag pins; flag accessories; hole cups; putting cups; hole cutters; hole trimmers; tee markers; flags; logoflags; wavy flags; air flow flags; printed flags; embroidered flags with your name on; triangular flags; flags that are not flags but wicker baskets; flags with your Captain’s face on; maybe? Maybe not?

Welcome to a day in the life of the golf course products supplier, it’s a colourful world says Andrew Acorn, as he sets off with his stock of flags & products visiting golf courses up and down the country.

Every day is a new challenge with changing climates changing golf committees with new ideas that are put in front of the greenkeepers saying “This year I want new flags with...”

Andrew Acorn, as he sets off with his stock of flags & products visiting golf courses up and down the country.

“I’m awaiting for the launch of the Hydraulic hole cutter for now we will continue cutting perfect holes with the twin hole cutters...”

For all your golf course products and accessories phone 01925 775005 facebook skype twitter ebay 07778 162162 www.acornagolf.com

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