The anatomy of...

Kubota Grand L5240 GST Tractors

Looking for a clutch-free alternative to a mechanical transmission? Kubota Grand L40-Series tractors, first launched in early 2008, include the nominal 50hp L5040 with a choice of mechanical 16F/16R or clutch-less GST 24F/16R transmissions. Adding £700 to the bottom line, what does GST offer apart from creep speeds over the standard gearbox?
Step-by-step Analysis...

Kubota Grand L5240 GST Tractors

Last year we took a closer look at Kubota’s HST Plus system, a hydrostatic transmission that can be set using the Cruise function so it in effect ‘locks’ to match the forward speed and engine rpm, just like it is with a mechanical drive.

The key feature claim is that HST offers the same repeatability as a mechanical transmission but also the benefits of a hydrostatic drive.

Kubota is not claiming this ‘fixed’ drive ability is a unique HST Plus feature. Both the John Deere eHydro hydrostatic and New Holland EasyDrive CVT transmissions offer similar abilities. But not every-one wants this type of transmission, preferring instead a mechanical drive that provides a ‘real’ direct link between the selected gear and engine speed.

It is here where Kubota suggests its GST transmission comes into play. In broad outline, the transmission is actually pretty much like a conventional mechanical system. The key difference is that each gear can be selected without the need to first depress the clutch. This action is taken care of by an electro-hydraulic system that employs a sensor on the lever to first activate the clutch and secondly shift to the selected gear.

In work, the operator selects a gear and then engages the dash-mounted clutch-less forward/reverse shuttle to take up the drive. The next ratio, up or down, can then be selected by shifting the gear lever without depressing the clutch pedal. It is as simple as that.

The system should not be confused with a powershift transmission, though; for starters there are no automated features such as auto-transport.

The operator has to select the gear for the job and the transmission will not shift from that ratio by itself. Also, the transmission cannot work miracles. Expect an easy take-off after selecting the top ratio and you will be disappointed.

But in everyday use, GST is really simple to get to grips with. When it comes to precision work, it also makes getting the right speed for a given task more straightforward than it might be with a conventional mechanical transmission. Take operating a tined aerator. Where precise hole spacing is called for, the transmission and engine speeds can be adjusted to deliver the desired result as it is easy to skip between gears; the lower gear steps are 0.25, 0.28, 0.36, 0.46, 0.54, 0.68, 0.80 and 1.00 km/hr.

There are eight speeds should be close enough to allow a good match between the engine set at the most desirable PTO speed and a forward speed to suit the job. There is a great deal of choice in the sub-100hp tractor market, so it pays to know what you want from a tractor perhaps more now than ever before. This is because you can get bogged down in looking at power and lift capacities as well as transmissions rather than honing in on key features you must have. A key job includes precision work such as delivering precise hole spacing when aerating a green, you need to ensure whatever tractor you look at can deliver this. Although ‘clever’ hydrostatic and CVT type transmissions may claim to deliver this consistency you need to ensure the package on offer meets your needs.

Similarly opting for a mechanical drive is a safe choice for precision work, but you also need to make sure the transmission has a good overlap of creep speeds. As models change so too can the specifications. So you need to check what is offered. Some brochure figures can also be misleading as UK specifications may not be listed in market-

There is a great deal of choice in the sub-100hp tractor market, so it pays to know what you want from a tractor perhaps more now than ever before.

The Kubota range combines power, reliability and operator comfort to deliver exceptional performance whatever the task.

Find your local dealer or book a test drive today:

www.kubota.co.uk Tel: 01844 214 500
Step-by-step Analysis...
Kubota Grand L5240 GST Tractors

Last year we took a closer look at Kubota’s HST Plus system, a hydrostatic transmission that can be set using the Cruise function so it in effect ‘locks’ to match the forward speed and engine rpm, just like it is with a mechanical drive.

The key feature claim is that HST can offer the same repeatability as a mechanical transmission but matched to the benefits of a hydrostatic drive.

Kubota is not claiming this ‘fixed’ drive ability is a unique HST Plus Feature. Both the John Deere eHydro hydrostatic and New Holland EasyDrive CVT transmissions offer similar abilities. But not everyone wants this type of transmission, preferring instead a mechanical drive that provides a true direct link between the selected gear and engine speed.

It is here where Kubota suggests its GST transmission comes into play. In broad outline, the transmission is actually pretty much like a conventional mechanical system. The key difference is that each gear can be selected without the need to first depress the clutch. This action is taken care of by an electro-hydraulic system that employs a sensor on the lever to first activate the clutch and secondly shift to the selected gear.

In work, the operator selects a gear and then engages the dash-mounted clutch-less forward/reverse shuttle to take up the drive. The next ratio, up or down, can then be selected by shifting the gear lever without depressing the clutch pedal. It is as simple as that.

The system should not be confused with a powershift transmission though, for starters there are no automated features such as auto-transport.

The operator has to select the gear for the job and the transmission will not shift from that ratio by itself. Also, the transmission cannot work miracles. Expect an easy take-off after selecting the top ratio and you will be disappointed.

But in everyday use, GST is really simple to get to grips with. When it comes to precision work, it also makes getting the right speed for a given task more straightforward than it might be with a conventional mechanical transmission. Take operating a tined aerator. Where precise hole spacing is called for, the transmission and engine speeds can be adjusted to deliver the desired result as it is easy to slip between gears; the lower gear steps are 0.20, 0.28, 0.36, 0.46, 0.54, 0.68, 0.80 and 1.00 km/hr. These eight speeds should be close enough to allow a good match between the engine set at the most desirable PTO speed and a forward speed to suit the job.

There is a great deal of choice in the sub-100hp tractor market, so it pays to know what you want from a tractor perhaps more now than ever before. This is because you can get bogged down in looking at power and lift capacities as well as transmissions rather than honing in on key features you must have. If a key job includes precision work such as delivering precise hole spacing when aerating a green, you need to ensure whatever tractor you look at can deliver this. Although ‘clever’ hydrostatic and CVT type transmissions may claim to deliver this consistency you need to ensure the package on offer meets your needs.

Similarly opting for a mechanical drive is a safe choice for precision work, but you also need to make sure the transmission has a good overlap of creep speeds. As models change so too can the specifications. Do you need to check what is offered? Some brochure figures can also be misleading as UK specifications may not be listed in marketing material prepared to meet the demands of all English speaking markets. As an example, Kubota lists creep speeds as an option on the L5040 with a GST transmission when they are in fact a standard feature on UK market models.

It is for these reasons that it is important to try and take the time to actually find out more about a given tractor than just looking up its specifications online.

Outline specification: Kubota L5040 tractor

- Model: L5040
- Engine type: 4-cylinder diesel
- E-TVCS 4-cylinder diesel: 36.0/48.8
- Transmission: 36.0/48.8
- Speed range (km/hr): 0.20 – 30.34
- 2 and 4 wheel drive
- Guide gross weight (kg): 1885
- Guide rear linkage capacity (kg): 1750
- Dimensions (L : W : H) (mm): 2455 : 1470 : 2375
- Minimum Turn radius (m): 3.20
- Fuel tank capacity (litres): 54
- Standard turf tyres (F : R): 20x12.00-15 : 475/65-D20
- List price: £22,900

*Creep speed range from 0.20km/hr 1.00.
Scottish Region

Central

The rules night seminar held at Elmwood on March 9 was well supported and Grant Moir, of the R&A, gave an excellent presentation. A more detailed report on the night is on the website www.biggacentralsection.org.uk. You will also find the results of the Spring Outing, at Ladybank, held on April 28, on the website. The deadline for this report was well before the event and a report on the Stan Zorocki seminar, which was held on April 21. The final of the inter club pairs for 2010 was finally completed and Craig wearable the winners over Leven by 1 hole over the two legs. Well done to them eventually).

This year there is a new format which we all have been notified about. At the time of writing this there was a healthy entry and by now those who entered should have received their entry and by now those who entered should have received their entry and by now those who entered should have received their draws ready. The first round is due to start on the 1st and 2nd and the final round is due to start on the 3rd and 4th of May. Good luck to all the entrants.

Dates for your diary are:
- Secretary’s Match, March 3, Glasgow Gailes
- Scottish Tournament, June 15, Dunbar Golf Club
- Willie Woods Tournament, May 29, Linlithgow GC
- Autumn Tournament, September 14, Braid Hills GC
- Scottish Open, July 23-26, Carnoustie

East

Well it’s mid-March and the temperatures are improving, birds singing and grass is growing. Unfortunately the stink bugs are crawling and the bunker sand is moving. Still, the new season is on the horizon with earnest and let’s hope for a good one.

Talking with Richard Windows of Highland Golf Club and with the knowledge and experience, he mentioned that East Lothian had been hit hard with the dreaded Fusarium, North Berwick has got off lightly with a few small areas visible although they are responding to treatment and the dry weather helps.

We have two new additions to our small Section committee, Scott Corrigan and George Oliver-Gregg. The Spring Outing at Craigielaw on April 19. We welcome them both. Tom Murray has left us and he will be missed greatly at committee level, his experience and wit was vast and our thanks and regards to him are extended.

Scott Corrigan, John Mair, George Oliver-Gregg.

West

On this bright sunny day I sit by the monthly article enjoying the warmth and benefits such a day provides. I am looking forward to the future growth induced by these higher than normal temperatures and on the move. I’ve noticed the hedgerows starting to bud; a sure sign spring has sprung.

Let’s hope the start of the season continues in the same vain as the last month, as my early disease scars are now filling in very nicely surprisingly enough. I hope all those affected in the same way are seeing progress in this area.

North

Hello everyone hope you are all well. As I sit here writing these notes looking out on a grey sky today, I’m writing this in a number of occasions and what I can say is that he was a true gentleman. Danny will be missed by all of us. I hope that with family and friends at this time.

Things have been looking good on the weather front these days with the daily in full moon and the sun streaming down on us all. The courses all around are beginning to take shape and fitness, soil moisture, firmness and speed. STIR is to be praised on the constant of the day’s discussions, the presentation of the material, and the venue. In attendance something in the region of 40 people enjoyed the day’s proceedings with a good diversity of the industry present, and to see a few different faces.

Thanks to Loch Lomond Golf Club for allowing the day’s events to go ahead and for providing the sound facilities. Just a few events to bring to your attention: The Spring Outing at Craigielaw Golf Club, on May 19, entries will be posted soon, thanks to Michael Slack for putting this together. The second event is the Scottish Association on results and the day will be on June 21st.

Northern Region

contact s.crawford@live.co.uk

August 9, Mortonhall GC; 15, Dukes Course; Glasgow Gailes; and all the best Keith.

and takes over at The Hirsel, at scottcorrigan4@aol.com was vast and our thanks and regards to him are extended.

Tam Murray has left us with Danny on a number of occasions and what I can say is that he was a true gentleman. Danny will be missed by all of us. I hope that with family and friends at this time.

The final of the inter club pairs for 2010 was finally completed and Craig wearable the winners over Leven by 1 hole over the two legs. Well done to them eventually).

This year there is a new format which we all have been notified about. At the time of writing this there was a healthy entry and by now those who entered should have received their entry and by now those who entered should have received their draws ready. The first round is due to start on the 1st and 2nd and the final round is due to start on the 3rd and 4th of May. Good luck to all the entrants.

Dates for your diary are:
- Secretary’s Match, March 3, Glasgow Gailes
- Scottish Tournament, June 15, Dunbar Golf Club
- Willie Woods Tournament, May 29, Linlithgow GC
- Autumn Tournament, September 14, Braid Hills GC
- Scottish Open, July 23-26, Carnoustie

North West

As we spring into summer, our attention is drawn to cuttings frequencies as the growth is now on the increase. April started off warm and dry here in Southport and the thought of watering some of the turf laid later than wanted was saved by a few heavy showers. Augusta has now recovered and come and gone and with that the unusual Augusta comments. The spring tournament was held at Heskerth and as the event has not taken place I must write this I’m gonna guess. The weather was extremely wet but the course just managed to stand up against all the rain, the wind also was present and many found it difficult to walk down 6 and 7. The course itself was passable, apart from the

Rain, the crazy pin positions and the lack of growth on the greens, all it is a good day and it was nice to see everyone from North. Thanks to the Members and Council of Heskerth for allowing us to play.

The next event this year is the NW v N Wales match at Heaton Moor GC on June 16. This is followed by the annual tournament at Grange on June 20.

On behalf of the North West Section, I would like to pass on the condolences of the family of Ian McMillan who passed away early April, Ian was known to many people in the North West and our thoughts and prayers are with his loved ones.

North

Our thanks and regards to him are extended.

Scott Corrigan and George Oliver-Gregg.

West

On this bright sunny day I sit by the monthly article enjoying the warmth and benefits such a day provides. I am looking forward to the future growth induced by these higher than normal temperatures and on the move. I’ve noticed the hedgerows starting to bud; a sure sign spring has sprung.

Let’s hope the start of the season continues in the same vain as the last month, as my early disease scars are now filling in very nicely surprisingly enough. I hope all those affected

the near future. If you think you can bring to your club. When you had, Gary will arrange to give you some time of your time to listen to what he has to offer.

Tony is working hard to establish his company in the market place and his office is now his car as he travels around the north-east in search of business. He is contacting Club Secretaries and Head Greenkeepers to arrange to meet with them to outline in more detail the cost saving benefits he can bring to your club. When you have time, give him some of your time to listen to what he has to offer.

Elliott Small has been tasked with assisting BIGGA with putting on a display at HTMS 2012 on 100 Years of Greenkeeping Associations. So please come and collate as much information and materials on the event and we have been asked to make enquiries where possible from some of the older members of our Section, whether they may know of any even older gentlemen who may have old photos, magazines, diaries later. One of the areas that we would hope to show would be he greenkeepers who may have generations of greenkeepers in their family, so any greenkeepers or your families can help please contact any of your committee members and we will happily pass anything on.

Terry Adamson, of Sheriff Amnesty, is holding talenex/ photostat training seminars in the near future. If you would like to use this please contact Terry directly. I think that’s about enough for now, I’m looking forwarding to hear from you and about your personal golfing affairs. If you have any professional news, feel free to contact me I’m only too willing to put your good news our column.

Pete Maybury e-mail petemaybury66@aol.com or mobile 07756001187.
**East**

Well it’s mid-March and the temperatures are improving, birds singing and grass is growing. Unfortunately the sudden shower and the bunker sand is still moving. Still, the new season is well upon us with earnest and let’s hope for a good one.

Talking with Richard Windows recently, the way to overlook the weather earlier was to mention that East Lothian had been hit hard with the dreadful Fusarium. North Berwick has got off lightly with the dreadful Fusarium. North Lothian had been hit hard with the dreaded Fusarium. Stewart Crawford

Yours in golf

Autumn Tournament, Sep 15.

**Central**

The rules night seminar held at Elmwood on March 9 was well supported and Grant Moir, of BioRA, gave an excellent presentation. A more detailed report on the night is on the website www.biggacentralisation.org.uk. You will also find the results of the Spring Outing, at Ladybank, held on April 28, on the website and the deadline for this report was well before the event and a report on the Stan Zontek seminar which was held on April 21. The final of the inter club pairs for 2010 was finally completed and Curtis and Crawford were the winners over Leven by 1 hole over the two legs. Well done to them eventually.

This year there is a new format which all should have been notified about. At the time of writing this there was a healthy entry and by now those who entered should have received word of the draw. 1st round. The final seminar before summer is a presentation by Adam Peaun, of Tiffers Turf, scheduled for 7pm, on May 12, at the training room, Elmwood College. Again more details on www.biggacentralisation.org.uk. On the move is Paul Armour, who has left Leven Links to take up the position of Head Greenkeeper at Lochgelly GC. Our best wishes go to Paul.

**Ayrshire**

It is with great regret that 1 inform you all of the recent passing of Danny Gardiner, of Beith Golf Club. Danny was the club’s first full time greenkeeper worked extremely hard at a time when Beith was only nine holes. Many saw the club grow into an 18 hole course one to test the very best of golfers among us. In my own time at Beith, where I served as apprentice greenkeeper, I spoke with Danny on a number of occasions and what I can say is that he was a true gentleman. Danny will be missed by all at Beith. Our thoughts are with his family and friends at this time.

Things have been looking good on the weather front these days but the days in full bloom and the sun streaming down on us all. The courses all around are beginning to take shape all thanks to the lads involved. Keep up the good work! I’ve not heard of any mishaps or horror stories. Time yet. Next month will bring the rains from the Spring Outing and of course as mentioned every issue I remind you that this is your Section, so please get in touch with any news. Let’s keep the Section rolling. Till next time... Cheers

John Mair
johnmair68@hotmail.co.uk
07780874449

**Northern Region**

Hello everyone hope you are all well. As I sit here writing these notes looking out on a grey sky and a drizzly shower of rain to water our newly turfed areas. It seems such a short time ago we were sick of wearing wellies and waterproof trousers. By the time you read these notes we might have seen some of you at our spring golf at the approach to the last hole at is Moortown GC on the June 22, 1st tee 10am. The prize is to be £20 per person. Please bring your scorecards etc; Turf Care Supplies - Equipment contract hire, Air Sead Products, ASL Agronomic, Northern Lubricants - Waste oil collection.

I hope you find all suitably well after a few days of sunshine. North Wales for their loss.

I hope that he was a true gentleman. Danny saw the club grow into an 18 hole course one to test the very best of golfers among us. In my own time at Beith, where I served as apprentice greenkeeper, I spoke with Danny on a number of occasions and what I can say is that he was a true gentleman. Danny will be missed by all at Beith. Our thoughts are with his family and friends at this time.

This year there is a new format which all should have been notified about. At the time of writing this there was a healthy entry and by now those who entered should have received word of the draw. 1st round. The final seminar before summer is a presentation by Adam Peaun, of Tiffers Turf, scheduled for 7pm, on May 12, at the training room, Elmwood College. Again more details on www.biggacentralisation.org.uk. On the move is Paul Armour, who has left Leven Links to take up the position of Head Greenkeeper at Lochgelly GC. Our best wishes go to Paul.

**Western**

On this bright sunny day I sit to type the monthly article enjoying the warmth and benefits such a day provides. I’m looking forward to the future growth induced by these higher than normal temperatures, and it has been noticed the headgreens starting to bud; a sure sign spring has sprung.

Let’s hope the start of the season continues in the same vein as the last month, as my early disease scars are now filling in very nicely surprisingly enough. I hope all those affected in the same way are seeing progress in this area.

The North East Region is in Summer mode, keep an eye out for the next issue to bring your attention to the Scottish Masters at Hesketh. Thanks to the members and the other item is the Scottish Masters at Denbigh Golf Club on May 11, at the training room, presentation by Adam Pound, of Hamilton Golf Club. Our next fixture is the annual match against the North West Region, held at Hesketh and as the tournament has been moved to May this year, there will be a short time ago we were sick of wearing wellies and waterproof trousers. The months of winter are now behind us and the hope is to see a few different faces.

Thanks to Loch Lomond Golf Club for allowing the day’s events to go ahead and for providing the scenic backdrops.

Just a few events to bring to your attention: The Spring Outing at Cowgreen Golf Club, on May 19, entries will be posted soon, thanks to Michael Black for assisting in the booking, for the secretary, and the other item is the Scottish Masters at St Andrews, on June 15.

The annual match against the secretaries is scheduled for the May 3, at Glasgow Golf Club, Glasgow. Let us know how that went in the next issue.

I have lost my job due to financial constraints affecting his club. Tony McLure, who will be moving to a new club in the near future.

**North Wales**

I hope that he was a true gentleman. Danny saw the club grow into an 18 hole course one to test the very best of golfers among us. In my own time at Beith, where I served as apprentice greenkeeper, I spoke with Danny on a number of occasions and what I can say is that he was a true gentleman. Danny will be missed by all at Beith. Our thoughts are with his family and friends at this time.

This year there is a new format which all should have been notified about. At the time of writing this there was a healthy entry and by now those who entered should have received word of the draw. 1st round. The final seminar before summer is a presentation by Adam Peaun, of Tiffers Turf, scheduled for 7pm, on May 12, at the training room, Elmwood College. Again more details on www.biggacentralisation.org.uk. On the move is Paul Armour, who has left Leven Links to take up the position of Head Greenkeeper at Lochgelly GC. Our best wishes go to Paul.

**North East**

This month’s news is all about movement within the Section. Firstly Craig Park at Slaley Hall and former Course Manager and Dan Martin, has been appointed as Course Manager at Denbigh Golf Club. Our next fixture is the annual match against the North West Region, held at Hesketh and as the tournament has been moved to May this year, there will be a short time ago we were sick of wearing wellies and waterproof trousers. The months of winter are now behind us and the hope is to see a few different faces.

Thanks to Loch Lomond Golf Club for allowing the day’s events to go ahead and for providing the scenic backdrops.

Just a few events to bring to your attention: The Spring Outing at Cowgreen Golf Club, on May 19, entries will be posted soon, thanks to Michael Black for assisting in the booking, for the secretary, and the other item is the Scottish Masters at St Andrews, on June 15.

The annual match against the secretaries is scheduled for the May 3, at Glasgow Golf Club, Glasgow. Let us know how that went in the next issue.

I have lost my job due to financial constraints affecting his club. Tony McLure, who will be moving to a new club in the near future.

**About the author**

The Atom Bunker Edger from DJ Turfcare is the smart way to cut your bunkers. Its straight edges, sharp teeth and effective, this tough machine is easy to use and maintain. Trusted by golf greenkeepers throughout the UK.

Ask the turfcare experts. Call us today.

**DJ Turfcare**

01483 209976
dj turfcare.co.uk
**Around The Green**

**East of England**

Our re-arranged Christmas fixture was played on Thursday, March 10th at the Hotel Gi. A good turnout of around 30 players did battle with the wind which had turned to North West. The competition was won by Richard Goad, with Bruce Billings, 2nd, and Paul Hanks, 3rd. Thanks to all who entered and to the Club for the use of their facilities.

**East Midlands**

Midland

As I sit here writing yet another stunning edition of our Section's newsletter, I would like to announce that the 2011 season will begin on Saturday 28th May, with the spring open at East Midlands, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and understanding.

The competition will be held at Rockcliffe Hall Hotel, Castleton, Derbyshire. The event will be a 4-ball matchplay format, with the cost of £25 per team. The 18 holes will be played over the New Course, and the closing date for entries is Saturday 18th June. The winner's cheque will be £500, and the runners-up will receive £250.

We would like to invite all our members and guests to attend this event, as it is the perfect way to start the season and to kick off the new year in style. The day will include a delicious lunch, a presentation, and the opportunity to catch up with friends and family.

Please contact your nearest Greenkeeper or Section Secretary for further details.

**South West and South Wales**

South West

Hi everyone, I trust that you all are well and enjoying this lovely fine weather that is finally starting to make an appearance. As always, please allow me to explain the error that was made with the March newsletter. The incorrect date was April 1st, and the correct date is April 27th. Thank you for your patience.

South Wales

Our March meeting was held at Merit Golf Club, Newport, sponsored by Tacit. The day was a great success, with a good turnout of around 30 players. The course was in excellent condition, and the weather was fine, providing the perfect conditions for a great day of golf.

The day began with a presentation from Pete Smith on the importance of irrigation management. Pete discussed the various factors that affect irrigation, such as weather, soil conditions, and course maintenance. He also highlighted the role of irrigation in maintaining the playing qualities of the course.

Following the presentation, the players enjoyed a round of golf. The day was won by Kevin Kinser with a score of 69, and the runner-up was Kevin Haslam with a score of 71. The net winners were Gary Horgan with a score of 66, and the runner-up was Tony Nolan with a score of 70.

We would like to thank all our members and guests for their continued support and understanding. As always, we look forward to seeing you all on the green.

**South Coast**

Our April meeting was held at Rockcliffe Hall Hotel, Castleton, Derbyshire, sponsored by CWC. The day was a great success, with a good turnout of around 30 players. The course was in excellent condition, and the weather was fine, providing the perfect conditions for a great day of golf.

The day began with a presentation from Pete Smith on the importance of irrigation management. Pete discussed the various factors that affect irrigation, such as weather, soil conditions, and course maintenance. He also highlighted the role of irrigation in maintaining the playing qualities of the course.

Following the presentation, the players enjoyed a round of golf. The day was won by Kevin Kinser with a score of 69, and the runner-up was Kevin Haslam with a score of 71. The net winners were Gary Horgan with a score of 66, and the runner-up was Tony Nolan with a score of 70.

We would like to thank all our members and guests for their continued support and understanding. As always, we look forward to seeing you all on the green.
East of England

Our re-arranged Christmas fixture was played on Thursday March 10 and the IGFA Champions Qualifier, the event was played at the Nottinghamshire Golf Club. It was a worthy cause to go to Pete Billings, and his team. Results as follows: trade winner 1st place: G. K. Jesty, 2nd place: C. T. C. Robb, 3rd place: P. B. Smith, other prize winners going to: B. Ryves and P. L. Hopkins. Our Section's golf fixtures for the time you read this we would be delighted to see you all there.

Midland

As I sit here writing yet another stunning edition of our Section’s monthly newsletter, I can look out of the window and give thanks that finally spring/summer is here and the days are noticeably warmer and the return of the many varied blooming flora and fauna that can be found all over the midlands. So here is my brief experience. It was a sunny morning and a gentle breeze that was in my favor and gave me a chance to experience the course. I then walked around the course and was amazed at how many bunkers and greens are on the course. I then returned to the club house and was truly impressed. I have been a member of the Section for two years and I am truly impressed. I have been a member of the Section for two years and I am truly impressed. I have been a member of the Section for two years and I am truly impressed. I have been a member of the Section for two years and I am truly impressed. I have been a member of the Section for two years and I am truly impressed. I have been a member of the Section for two years and I am truly impressed. I have been a member of the Section for two years and I am truly impressed. I have been a member of the Section for two years and I am truly impressed. I have been a member of the Section for two years and I am truly impressed. I have been a member of the Section for two years and I am truly impressed.

Sponsorship Qualifier: Neath GC, Thursday, June 16. Match v South West: Chippenham GC, Friday, August 12, sponsored by Inscapes; Match v GCMA: Neath GC, Thursday, August 25, sponsored by CWC.

South West

Hi everyone, I trust that you are all as well and enjoying this mighty fine weather that is finally here. Firstly, please allow me to explain the error that was in last month’s events section. We had a fantastic day at Cavendish GC on Wednesday, June 29. I know this may be a long journey for some but it is a venue that well worth the trip. I hope to see you all there.

South West and South Wales

Finally, this will be my last “Around the Green’. The past two and a half years I have enjoyed every minute of it. It has been a round number to end on and about that time that I have decided to give it a rest. And preferably a greener with a bit of a career. I have really enjoyed the experience and, if you can imagine, the effects of lugging around an 8 stone 7 lb golf bag has removed the first grey hair. Thanks for all the comments about the column that I have written for the Section and I am sure you will miss me but I will certainly be happy to contribute a bit of insight in future.

Sponsorship Qualifier: Neath GC, Thursday, June 16. Match v South West: Chippenham GC, Friday, August 12, sponsored by Inscapes; Match v GCMA: Neath GC, Thursday, August 25, sponsored by CWC.

South Wales

Finally, I details of the Section’s golf fixtures for the year. Thanks to Steve Chapell for providing me with this information. The fixtures are as follows:

Assistant Profile

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

Name: Gary Fraser
Age: 31
Club: Rockhill GC
Position: Qualified Assistant

1. How long have you been greening your greens?
3 years
2. What was it about the career that attracted you?
Working outdoors and being involved in golf
3. If you weren’t a greener what would you be doing? Probably in the Armed Forces
4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?
Participating in some of the annual events such as the Ryder Cup
5. Which task do you least enjoy doing and why? Any turf work
6. What one thing - other than pay rise - would improve the greener’s lot? Education and training
7. Hobbies? Golf and Football
8. Favourite Band? Foo Fighters
9. Which team do you support (football or otherwise)? Chelsea
10. What is your claim to fame? Worked on a number of pros' courses
Forrester Park, Thursday, May 8th 2013

The Essex Section would like to announce the Essex Section Summer Pairs Knockout, which will be played on May 26th at Knole Park Golf Club.

Winning teams from each section event will receive a full set of embroidered logo flags for their club together with individual prizes and savour the atmosphere of a prestigious event. The Essex Section Summer Pairs Knockout will be a round of 10 holes per pairing, with the best two scores to count. The final will be played over 18 holes.

Each section event will be played on the same day as the Essex Section Summer Pairs Knockout, with the winners of each event playing off on the following day at Essex Golf Club.

New Winners:

- Forrester Park, Thursday, May 8th 2013
- Essex Golf Club, Thursday, May 15th 2013
- Romford Golf Club, Thursday, May 22nd 2013
- St Albans Golf Club, Thursday, May 29th 2013

The Essex Section Summer Pairs Knockout will be played over 18 holes, with the best two scores to count. The final will be played over 18 holes, with the best two scores to count.

New Winners:

- Forrester Park, Thursday, May 8th 2013
- Essex Golf Club, Thursday, May 15th 2013
- Romford Golf Club, Thursday, May 22nd 2013
- St Albans Golf Club, Thursday, May 29th 2013

The Essex Section Summer Pairs Knockout will be played over 18 holes, with the best two scores to count. The final will be played over 18 holes, with the best two scores to count.

New Winners:

- Forrester Park, Thursday, May 8th 2013
- Essex Golf Club, Thursday, May 15th 2013
- Romford Golf Club, Thursday, May 22nd 2013
- St Albans Golf Club, Thursday, May 29th 2013

The Essex Section Summer Pairs Knockout will be played over 18 holes, with the best two scores to count. The final will be played over 18 holes, with the best two scores to count.

New Winners:

- Forrester Park, Thursday, May 8th 2013
- Essex Golf Club, Thursday, May 15th 2013
- Romford Golf Club, Thursday, May 22nd 2013
- St Albans Golf Club, Thursday, May 29th 2013

The Essex Section Summer Pairs Knockout will be played over 18 holes, with the best two scores to count. The final will be played over 18 holes, with the best two scores to count.

New Winners:

- Forrester Park, Thursday, May 8th 2013
- Essex Golf Club, Thursday, May 15th 2013
- Romford Golf Club, Thursday, May 22nd 2013
- St Albans Golf Club, Thursday, May 29th 2013

The Essex Section Summer Pairs Knockout will be played over 18 holes, with the best two scores to count. The final will be played over 18 holes, with the best two scores to count.

New Winners:

- Forrester Park, Thursday, May 8th 2013
- Essex Golf Club, Thursday, May 15th 2013
- Romford Golf Club, Thursday, May 22nd 2013
- St Albans Golf Club, Thursday, May 29th 2013

The Essex Section Summer Pairs Knockout will be played over 18 holes, with the best two scores to count. The final will be played over 18 holes, with the best two scores to count.
When we are looking forward to our next event which shall be played on May 26 at Knole Park Golf Club, near Sevenoaks. Good luck to host Course Manager, Gavin Kyle, in preparing for his peers and if you can arrange a decent bit of weather that would be great! We are also still collating teams for our Summer Pairs Knockout. This will be running throughout the summer months (possibly) and will be in place of our usual mid-spring golf day which always conflicts with people’s holidays. If you have not already entered and wish to do so with a fellow greenkeeper, then call me or Kerry asap as we shall do the draw for the first round of matches at Knole Park.

Lee Wood, Secretary

SURREY

We are just two of those companies who have pledged their support to our Section this year. Your names are proudly displayed on our website with a link to your courses.

One important additional I would like to make here is the sadness that I’m sure many of us feel when we heard of the sudden passing of Ian McMillan recently. I had known Ian for many years having worked with him at Dartford for, seven years at the outset of my career.

His outstanding work at Hadley Common and Walton Heath shall be a lasting legacy to his ultimate professionalism.

Many thanks again to all my family and friends who are missing him at this most difficult of times.

Rob Holland
www.kentgreenkeepers.com

Essex

This is with great shock and sadness we have all learned of the death of Ian McMillan.

To try and write about Ian is a bit too raw for us all at this time, so we will let some of the wonderful people who will come to miss him, and us, to remember coming in the next few days.

Our thoughts are with his wife Karen, children Callyum, Hannah, Daniel and others members of the McMillan Family.

Fairwell good friend! You will never be forgotten!... 

Gareth Roberts and Jim Rusell.

We hope a day aid course at The Burstead Golf Club on April 5, a very successful day that was well attended. Further dates are to be arranged for this course.

We are also looking to run other one day courses, so if you have any ideas or need a specific course, then please contact Ian Wood or our Education Officer, Ian Jones.

Press Officer & Web Master

SINCERE THANKS TO ALL WHO MADE OUR SUMMER TROPHY EVENTS A SUCCESS!

The BIGGA South Wales and South West Region’s events will take place at the following locations: -
South Coast Section – Shoreham Golf Club on Mon 20th June
South West Region Section – Mortonhall Golf Club on Wed 29th June
South Wales Region Section – The Players Golf Club on Thur 21st July

Details will be sent out to Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers at clubs within the sections. Should you be interested in entering a team in the South West and South Wales Sections please contact Jane Jones BIGGA Regional Administrator.

Tel 01454 270850 or e-mail janicj@btconnect.com

NEW SPONSORS FOR GOLF MANAGEMENT TROPHY COMPETITIONS 2011

The Golf Management Competitions this year have a new national Authority Golf Course Equipment company TACIT have agreed to become sponsors for these events in the next three years.

Winning teams from each section event will receive a full set of embroidered logo flags for their club with individual prizes for players of the first, second and third placed teams. Together with this the winning teams and the runners up will go forward to a National final on the 1st of August at the Dunhill Cup, Royal County Down. This will be a two-day competition. The winners of the National final will receive a full set of aluminium hole cups and tournament flagsticks together with the Golf Management Competition Trophy.
Membership

Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update

Membership Benefits Update

Tastecard success

Brad Anderson, Membership

Tastecard offers a range of benefits for members, including discounts at participating restaurants. For details, visit www.tastecard.co.uk or visit the BIGGA website.

Brad Anderson, Membership Services Administrator is leaving BIGGA

After ten years with the Association, Brad is moving on. He is taking up the post of Manager of a local pub in Harrogate where he has been working part-time on an evening for the past two years.

If you wish to join us in wishing him all the best for this future career and thank him for all his hard work over the last ten years, Good luck Brad!

Social Networking

Many of BIGGA’s Sections now have a Facebook page or group, if you are a member of Facebook go and ‘join’ this section group or page and keep up to date with what’s going on locally to mention the friends that you can make online through these Facebook groups.

50

GI

MAY 2011

51