

self-deprecating to name them, did not.

The semi-finalists in the Surrey Bowl are Gareth Roberts and Paul Bacon v Ron Christie and Roger Tydeman and Gary Ogilvie and Neil Gilham v David Worsfold and Jamie McEnroy.

I had thought that this last paragraph ought to contain a list of my birthday presents and friends and family who sent cards, but so much excitement in one edition could be too much for our more senior members to take, so I'll just say goodbye until next month.

Brian Willmott



Essex

It's 10 years since we last played at Burnham-on-Crouch Golf Club and what a difference it was. Last time we experienced every weather condition that could be thrown at us and this time the Gods were kind. The sun shone and the winds stayed moderate, which was lucky as Burnham is on the banks of the River Crouch with open plains to the west and south so when it blows, it BLOWS.

The Course was in fantastic condition, the 36 plus starters enjoyed a great day's golf. No hold-ups and around in just over the four hours. Praise must go to Course Manager, Robert Coughlan, and his team for the condition, consistent pace on the greens and a well-manicured course, trouble if you were wild and forgiving if you weren't.

Scores were interesting but the best didn't disgrace themselves.

Overall winner of the Summer Trophy. Plus entrance to the BIGGA National Championship was Sam Cook, Colchester Golf Club; he joins Adam Millward and Mark Stopps on the Essex Team with one more to join them from the "Essex Trophy" this month.

Div 1. 1. Antony Kirwan, Lexden Wood GC, 37 pts. 2. Tom Smith, Colne Valley GC, 33 pts. Div 2. 1. Martin Forrester, The Essex G&CC, 41 pts; 2. Ian Wood, Romford GC 32, pts. Guest Prize, Paul Holloway, 39 pts. Trade Prize, Andy Turbin, 39 pts. Nearest the Pin. Simon

Cairns. Longest Drive: Antony Kirwan.

Thanks must go to the members of Burnham-on-Crouch Golf Club for allowing us to play their course, to the catering staff for feeding us so well and to Andy Turbin (committee member at Burnham and trade sponsor of our section) for presenting the prizes. I would like to thank all those trade members who supplied the prizes for the raffle table and to all those members that joined us on the day, helping to make it one of the best events we've had for a long time.

The Essex Captains v Greenkeepers match at Romford Golf Club, July 7 was badly affected by rain and thunder, most managed nine holes but that was about it. Ian Wood, Course Manager at Romford, reports that the weather conditions only allowed a certain amount of play over the day. The results are as follows:-

Holes 1-9 Captains: Alan Levet & Phil Wilson, Bentley Golf Club, 25 pts. Holes 1-9 Greenkeepers: Andy Cracknell & Michael Bartlett, Orsett Golf Club, 21 pts. Holes 10-18 Captains: James Robinson & Sam Smith, Gosfield Lake GC, 24 pts. Holes 10-18 Greenkeepers: Richard Dunmow & Malcolm Smith, Channels GC, 20 pts. Nearest the Pin: 6th Hole, Richard Hare, GK, Abridge Golf Club. Nearest the Pin: 17th Hole, John Wheelhouse, Captain, Channels Golf Club.

John Smith, Essex Captain's Captain welcomed all the players and presented the prizes, he thanked the club and staff for their hard work and which regrettably was slightly spoilt by the weather. The Captains won 13-7 on the day.

I will not be able to give an account of the "Essex Trophy" which is to be held at Canons Brook Golf Club, Wednesday, August 19 until September's edition of this magazine. If you have not yet entered there is still just time to get in, I hope to see you there. As I stated last month we have re-named this event.

That's all for this time. Holidays and work are keeping us all busy and not much news is coming my way.

If you do have any news for the website or for GK International please contact me on 07764-862.337 or via e-mail essexbigga@talktalk.net

Arnold Phipps-Jones
Press Officer



John Pemberton
Chief Executive

It's hard to believe that we are into September already and planning for Harrogate Week is starting to dominate time in the office. The education programme goes to print this month and will be available both in hard copy and on-line in a couple of weeks time.

Keep an eye on www.harrogateweek.org.uk for full details or follow the link at the top of the BIGGA web site Home Page. While bookings from exhibitors are reasonably good for this time of the year there is no doubt that the downturn in the economy has taken its toll. It is noticeable that there are a number of regular exhibitors that have not rebooked due to cash flow problems and that have opted to wait and see how things go this summer before committing. This is, of course, of concern, however, traditionally we have always had a flurry of bookings after SALTEX and through into December. The sales team is working hard to try to ensure that this happens again this year as well as exploring new avenues.

There is no doubt that exhibitions generally are under threat and I have heard of several around the country that have been cancelled this year, I'm sure that members will be aware of some of these.

Harrogate Week is not only a vital source of revenue for the Association but also the best opportunity, arguably in Europe, for members and their peers to meet suppliers, access bespoke education and to network within the sports turf industry. More and more companies are having their budgets either cut or frozen and so are therefore looking closely at how they spend their money. There are a number of publications within the industry, all competing, and some often almost giving advertising away to fill pages. BIGGA's advertising revenue in Greenkeeper International and on the web has suffered in no small way and as I have reported previously we have reduced staffing levels at Headquarters by three as a direct consequence. All I ask is that you support your association that is there to support you.

With that in mind we are rapidly approaching the time of year when Sections hold their AGM's and often elect new committee members. I know that it is very difficult to balance work, home and outside interests but please try to give some of your time to your Section, even if it is not on a regular basis. A small amount of help will ease the burden that all too often in some Sections rests with one or two people. The age-old adage of 'a job shared is a job halved' has never been more appropriate. Headquarters staff are on hand to back up the Sections and this can be called upon direct or through the Regional Administrators.

I believe that BIGGA has achieved a great deal since 1987 and has a lot to look forward to, but its ongoing success rests in the hands of its members, who are its best ambassadors and its best recruitment officers. Please do your best to keep BIGGA at the forefront of the sports turf industry.

John Pemberton
Chief Executive