

Section Notes

Please email your notes to
scott@bigga.co.uk
by the 5th
of the month

All the latest news from your Section

Around The Green



Scottish Region



Central

The seminar with Stan Zontek and John Kaminski, which had to be cancelled in April due to the volcanic ash, has been rescheduled for Wednesday, September 1 at the training room at Elmwood Golf Course, 7pm.

There will be more details on the website www.bigga-central-section.co.uk It may seem bizarre to have this in September but the thrust of the presentation will be about winter damage to golf greens and I am sure it will be entertaining as well as informative. All welcome, no charge.

Congratulations to the Section members who did well in the Scottish Championships at Murcar, David Simpson won the Scratch prize with Archie Dunn, Charlie MacDonald, Lewis Birch, Gary Semple, Mike Carson and Elliot Small all picking up prizes of some description, while some of the aforementioned helped the Section win the St Mungo Team Trophy.

Well done to all those Course Managers and staff who hosted Final Qualifying which is an important part of the tournament and the same to Willie Swann, and his team at Lundin Golf Club, who had the World Junior Open on the Tuesday and Wednesday of Open week.

Congratulations also to John Philp and Sandy Reid and the Carnoustie guys for a successful British Seniors Open the week after us and to the Course Managers and their teams at the qualifying venues for that tournament.

Finally good luck to Scott Fenwick and his team at Gleaeagles for the Johnnie Walker Championship at the end of August which should see a thrilling finale to the

race for Ryder Cup places.

We're all dead on our feet here from a very busy Open Championship and we still have the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship and a host of local club tournaments to look forward to. Roll on winter!

Gordon Moir



West

A few problems with the submission dates of my article and holidays have caused an absence with the last two monthly issues and for that I apologise, but here we are at last. The weather has been great to us over the last couple of months and golf seasons are in full swing.

Recently I was informed of some special occasions which are worth a mention as they don't happen too often, Sandy Brawley, Kenny Henderson, both of East Kilbride Golf Club, and Gary Burns, of Lenzie Golf Club, celebrated 25 years of service to their respective clubs, something which should be commended in this present climate. Well done to all and I hope you are around for another 25 years, I might joke but the way pensions are going I don't think I will be too far off the mark.

Another item worth a mention is the recent retirement of Bob Stevenson, of Alex McDougal Mowers, who has decided it's time to put the slippers at the fireside. Bob, who believe it or not is 68 and doesn't look a day over 60, has worked for a few different companies over the years but my fondest memory was when he worked with Toro (Russell's) and asked if he could practice using the new GM machine operation on one of our greens to make sure he didn't make a full of himself when on Demon-

strations. The next thing we knew was Bob walking up the fairway to the sheds and no machine in sight. Guess what, he'd toppled it in the bunker and we had to haul him out with no damage to the machine or operator thank goodness. Sorry for mentioning that Bob, but I couldn't resist the temptation. The Section would like to wish you all the best in your retirement and hopefully you can enjoy more time with the family.

Next item, which was a long time ago, being the John Deere demonstration day held on April 20 at Play Golf in East Kilbride. It appears to have been a very good day with a large turn out from all areas of the West of Scotland even if the weather was slightly brisk. A good range of equipment and irrigation products were on show for all to see and then nine holes of golf. Thanks go to Nairn Bown for there usual excellent organisation and the well received coffee with filled rolls.

Unfortunately I cannot report on the Loch Lomond day regarding wetting agents as the main speaker could not travel due to the volcanic ash. Maybe next time.

The outing held at Lanark on April 29 once again had a good attendance -37 people came to sample a beautiful course in excellent condition for the time of year considering the severe weather we've experienced. Jim Lyon and his staff are to be congratulated for all their superb work in preparing the course, may I also thank the Secretary, Captain and members for allowing us the courtesy of the course for the day.

The eventual winners were: 1st Class. 1. A. Peace; 2. A. Reid; 3. I. Young; 2nd Class. 1. C. Carvel; B. Logue; 3. G. Jarvis; 3rd Class. 1. B. Ramsey; 2. C. Keirney; 3. M. Maxton. Scratch winner was D. MacIntosh with 71. Trade prize. D. Duthie; Visitor. R. Brennan. Apprentice. B. Summerville.

Could I thank all who attended

the day for their valued support to the Section.

Sadly, I report the death of Jim McCormack, of Cawder Golf Club, who attended many an outing over the years but who passed away last month after a long fight against cancer. Jim served under Alistair Connell for numerous years and then laterally, Neil McLennan, and was seen picking up a few prizes occasionally. Our thoughts are with his family at this time.

Last thing to mention was the match against the Secretaries held on May 3 over Montrose Golf Club, which is a fine example of a links course and was a joy to play. Peter Boyd had to call upon two of the staff at the last minute to make up the numbers, but it proved a good move as the overall team result was a victory for the good guys. In the history of the event which has been running now for 34 years the secretaries have only won on three occasions with one draw, so I'm glad the good record was upheld.

Thanks to all concerned, especially the members of Montrose for allowing us to play your beautiful layout.

Please remember the Autumn outing at Helensburgh on September 2, which should be in good condition but I hope the greens won't be too fast this time as the last time I played I putted off the 1st green, I look forward to seeing how things have matured.

Once again gentlemen I ask if there is any information people wish to pass on to get in touch by e-mail, stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com or mobile 07790823914, or land line 0141-942-5554, so far only a couple of items have come forward.

Stuart Taylor
Glasgow Golf Club
Northern Region

Around The Green



North

Hello everyone hope you are all well and coping with the heatwave. The Section would like to thank all the staff and committee at Scarborough North Cliff Golf Club for hosting our Presidents Golf Day, which was kindly sponsored by Bob Wilde Grass Machinery. We had a good turnout and it was nice to see some new faces. The results are as follows, Div 1. 1. Nigel Coultish (with an impressive 42 pts); 2. Dave Collins; 3. Stuart Mason. Div 2. 1 Duncan Campbell 2 Rob Walker 3 Steve Trowsdale. Div 3 1 Joe Baxter 2 Pete Colley 3 Dave Featherstone. Nearest the pin on the 7th Dave Featherstone (with a good 9in) on the 15th Yours Truly. The trade prize went to Mel Guy. The President's Prize went to Gorden Street.

The Section would like to congratulate Scott Baxter, of Bingley St Ives GC, who got married on July 10, Hope you have many happy years of married life. Our Invitation Day takes place on Aug 25. at Harrogate GC. Anyone wishing to take part, please get in touch to book a place. First tee time is 9:30.

Any news or gossip please get in touch as usual, Frank Stewart 72 West Park Grove, Roundhay, LS8 2DY, tel.07947401278, E mail frankstewart3@hotmail.co.uk. Frank Stewart



North East

Here we go again its that time of the month for writing Section news, i always find that the next couple of months are the hardest times to find news as if its not been hard enough up to now.

Recently when I was travelling to work as I passed Prudhoe Golf Course I noticed a sign and thought - Haven't seen that up before must be warning people of something. Then I started thinking have you noticed how many notices golf courses have on them. "Buggies this way", "Buggies to the right"... or the left. "Steep slope" "Look left",

"Look right", whose got the right of way. I'm just wondering what's coming next. Anyway that's enough moaning on.

My next piece of news is something I find quite disturbing. I never thought I would ever hear of redundancies in our Section let alone in our profession, which was always regarded as a safe zone of employment in the past. Not now, with the current recession going on, we have had two members who have lost their jobs and I'm sure they won't be the last before we see some light at the end of the tunnel.

As you all know Slaley Hall has recently had the PGA Seniors Championship. Having watched it on Sky Sports 3 I reckon Steve Cram, Course Manager, can be congratulated on his presentation of the course. As you could see it was immaculate, even the pros were paying compliments. Well done Steve and your staff, all those extra hours must have been worthwhile.

Finally, more news about Close House. They should be in their new sheds by the time you read this as there must have been a bit of delay as I thought it was the end of May when that was happening and it's good to see that they are continuing to follow the same policy of tarmac-ing all the buggy paths on the new course. That must be great, pity other courses don't follow there idea, just think how much time could be saved. Yes, tarmac is expensive but its got to pay for itself in the long run, well that's all I can think of for this month.

Jimmy Richardson



North Wales

First of all, I must apologise for not putting a column in for last month but I sat in front of the computer and realised I had no really relevant news to pass on, so I thought "stuff it" and switched the thing back off again. But this month, Halleluia, I do have some news and views.

It only seems to be a few months ago I was writing in this column that the UK from Land's End to John O'Groats was white with snow and freezing conditions, now I'm writing that the whole country is baked to arid conditions with the driest first six

months of the year since 1929! What a year we're having so far! I wonder what's next. Surprise? Hurricanes, perhaps?

On June 9 the annual North Wales versus North West Match took at Carden Park on the Cheshire course and in a nail biting contest, North Wales took the honour beating the North West 3 ½ to 2 ½. Well done lads on retaining the trophy also a thank you has to go to the staff at Carden Park, the course was as exemplary as ever.

Upcoming events are, on September 22, North Wales hosts the Northern Region Golf Day this year it is being held at my home course at The Vale of Llangollen. I just hope we can carry on the excellent example that all the other courses in our Region show when holding BIGGA events also on September 30, the autumn tournament and AGM will take place at Mold Golf Club, so I hope you know where your entry forms are.

A quick reminder that our Facebook group is still happily ticking along if you haven't joined yet just search "North Wales BIGGA" and you will find us.

I think that's about it for this month so....

All the best until next month

Pete Maybury petemayb66@aol.com 07756001187



Sheffield

Hope everyone is doing well and are looking after themselves. Hopefully everyone has finally got over the disappointment of another English flop. I'm the first to admit that i did get a little carried away with the hype that surrounds our national team as you all probably noticed in my last notes.

Our Annual golf match was held at Hillsborough GC, firstly I must thank everyone at Hillsborough for once again allowing us to use their course. A special thanks must go to Ian and his staff for presenting a course that was a credit to all of them. A thank you must also go to Russ, and Mansfield Sand, for sponsoring the day once again and as said before it would be impossible to organise these days without their support.

The results on the day are as

follows: 1. M. Holden Net 75 Gross 69 Matt won both the Net and Gross Trophies. Well done Matt; 2. I. Whitehead; 3.D. Brownlow; Trade T. Dobson; Nearest the Pin D. Brownlow.

Congratulations to all our winners and thanks to everyone who played and I'm sure you all had a fantastic day once again. It was also very nice to see some new faces may it long continue.

Sales of our new polo shirts are going well and if anyone is interested please contact me to order a shirt. Shirts are available in many sizes and are available for £10. Thanks once again to Golf and Turf Machinery for helping us produce these shirts.

That's all for this month

J. Stevens

07738719614

jimmy_jams20@hotmail.com

Midland Region



Midland

Well here we are again, another month's edition of the Section's news and events. This month - I know the month is wrong, - but Nigel Tyler will be competing in the Isle of Man TT on his new Honda Gold Wing, which has heated seats and handle bars, air bags for his lady's safety. Strikes me that Nigel has moved from the speed demon to the ever cautious man with sensible shoes. Age does that old bean.

Well as I'm sure you can tell there is very little to report this month. I would really appreciate any information that you would like to see in our notes. Without your input folks, it is almost impossible to write such. PLEASE, I EMPLOY YOU, AND INDEED PLEAD that you advise me of the general achievements and wonderful happenings of you and yours. Contact me on: sean.mcdade@homecall.co.uk or on: 07908 421 015.

Now we must thank this month's very kind sponsors of this month's calendar page: our very kind supporter's of the Section T.H.White Grasscare. Please consider them for your machinery requirements of Jacobsen and Ransomes.

Please visit their website:

www.thwhitegrasscare.co.uk

I would like to remind all Midland Section members that contributions for photographs for the 2011 calendar are gratefully received. Please send to Richard Beacham at rich71@btconnect.com or preferably send a CD to me at Wrekin GC, Golf Links Lane, Wellington, Telford, TF6 5BX. A bottle of champagne will be awarded to the member who sends in the best picture that is published on the calendar 2011.

And just to finish, Phil Nixon you could have told me that you and the Mrs had had a little one. Details please chap, but congratulations old pal to you three and welcome to the little one. Beats a four wood of the 13th in work boots, ay mate.

Sean McDade



East Midlands

Hello all, firstly I would like to make two apologies, the first is for the Section not getting its usual airing in the last two issues, we have addressed this and it looks like I shall be trying to entertain you all from now on! The second apology is to anyone that has been trying to contact our Secretary, Andy de Wet. He has now moved and is living in the twilight zone! Seriously though he is now settled in to his new mansion in Coalville, and he can be contacted in the usual manner.

With us not posting any news for two months we ought to catch up on the results from our Spring Tournament and first part of the national championship qualifier, this was held at Erewash Valley GC with an excellent 37 people turning out in honour of the 43 years of service and impending retirement of course manager, Graham Arnold, the course was in excellent condition and the weather held fair.

In Division 1, the victory went too; D. Spencer, 38pts, closely followed by N. Colley and reigning National Champ Derek McJanet. In Division 2 D. Bull rolled out winner, followed by Adrian Henshaw and Yours Truly, the trade prize went to Kevin Kinsler. Finally a big thank you to our main sponsors, Aitkens, Mansfield Sand, Tacit and Richard

Japes at Sports Metals UK.

Continuing the golf theme, the Headland Pairs competition is progressing well, the first deadline for bonus points has now passed, and many groups have only a few games to play. So well done to all of you for sorting out fixtures etc, it has been requested that next year we introduce a mid season transfer window so that those that want to, can sack or draft in new partners! As table whipping boys myself and Greg Skinner, at Forest Hill, may well be sacking each other!

By time of reading this we would have held our summer tournament and BBQ at Rothley, where our representatives for the National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse, will be decided, I will update you with the results in the next issue.

As always your committee works very hard to run the golf events, days out and education, we are hoping to soon be in a position to offer Excavator training, and the Autumn Educational is to be held at Forest Hill GC on November 18 so watch this space and the Section pages on the website for details on both.

Until next time I will leave you with this thought, During our last section meeting, one of the committee (not mentioning any names) admitted to relaxing in a very FREE AND EASY way when his house was empty! What could this involve doing? Answers on a postcard please, to the Section committee, care of Carl Chamberlain.

Regards to all.

Pete Smith



East of England

Hello all.

So another day goes by without any sign of rain here on the east coast! That's about 5mm in five weeks now as I write at the beginning of July. I guess finally we can say we are having our first "proper" summer for a while which is good to keep the golfers coming in but leaves us with a different set of headaches! However by the time you read this the "sting in the tail" will probably have come as always and we will be sat under none stop rainfall and the brown

fairways, dormant grass and dry patch concerns will be a thing of the past.

Also by the time you read this, Gary Salisbury and Steve Hopkins will be recovering from representing our Section on the BIGGASupportTeamattheOpen at St Andrews. Congratulations to the pair for being selected, it is an incredible honour to be able to serve professionals at the highest level and made even more special by being at the Home of Golf. The Support team can only help raise the profile of greenkeepers throughout the game with recognition from professionals, fans at the course and TV exposure at a premium. As a veteran of the last Support team at St Andrews I can say that it is incredibly hard work and long hours, however, it is also very enjoyable and rewarding at the same time. You will probably be like me, willing every player to hit the bunker on 17 so you can say you raked the "Road Hole" bunker!

Our first golf day of the season was on May 27 at Newark Golf Club. The day was sponsored by Toro and Chris Sellars Groundcare. Many thanks to Nigel and Chris for their continued support. The golf course course was again excellently presented by Graeme Macdonald and his team and once again the hospitality of the golf club was top class.

The results from the day were as follows: 1. N. Ashman (who I am sure wore his Toro jacket with pride when he went back to work for John Deere the next day!) 2. G. Macdonald; 3. I. Collett, Rigby Taylor. Longest Drive. C. Chamberlain (Rigby Taylor). Nearest the Pin. C. Shelton, Burghley Park,

Roll on the Autumn!

Many thanks.

Steve Beverly, Immingham Golf Club.

South East Region



London

Hello to all,

Firstly I would like to apologise for not getting anything in the last month's addition of Around the Green. Things have been fairly quiet on the London front and I missed the deadline for the

article. Remember if you have any news please let me know.

The season is here at last and finally it's starting to grow! The course is taking shape nicely. After speaking to a lot of greenkeepers lately, everyone has been saying the same thing 'What a tough winter followed by a hard spring'.

I do believe good communication is required during these times of trouble. Keeping the golfers informed of the problems we are facing and how we plan to get over it. Sometimes this just isn't enough. We at Muswell Hill have built a new chipping green this winter and it's been a real hard slog getting that into shape from seed. One member asked me the other day 'When will it be open and like the other greens'. So I explained to him he must have missed my noticeboard, E-mails, greens forum, posters in the clubhouse and web page, that we were having a tough year with the weather etc. 'It will be open soon and will take time to be like the greens' (115 years old). His answer to me was 'my lawn is growing, I cut it last week'. I answered him with one word-BRILLIANT.

I also got the chance to pop in and have a look at Wentworth for the BMW this year I must say the course looked superb and the green staff of Wentworth did not get the credit they deserved because of all the talk about the design. The staff did not have a say in the design but they had a say in the course presentation and that was excellent. I know some will say they have the money but you still have to produce. They had less than a year from turf to tournament and they delivered a top course.

I then went from Wentworth to Walton Heath Golf Club for the US Open qualifying. Again the course was in great condition. The greens looked great and were a bit quick as I watched group after group thunder putts by the hole. Both the courses were cut and blown, wall to wall by 7.30am that is impressive.

The London Section National qualifier sponsored by A.T Olivers was held at Ealing Golf Club on May 20. We had a great day with over 50 attending. The weather was good but the course was great. You knew Greg Evans, was going to make an effort especially after all the debates and magazine articles. The greens putted quickly, they were firm, true and

Around The Green

the course presentation was very impressive. Oliver's had 'Hole in One' prizes including Workman's and holidays. Unfortunately no one managed to hole a shot this time!

The prize winners on the day were: 1. Dave Jones, the Deputy Head from Finchley GC, who shot an impressive 37 pts off one! David won many prizes including the Oliver's Trophy. 2. Dylan Rennick, from Northwood G.C, with 35 pts, who just beat 3. Ian Cresswick, from Stanmore GC, on countback. Great golf played by all of them and now the three of them will go onto play at The Berkshire in the National final. The winner of Best Trade went to Simon Banks who shot 35 points, which explains why he never answers his phone because he must be playing golf! The Longest Drive was won by David Badham and the two Nearest the Pins, one sponsored by Greg Evans, were won by Jon Selwood and Mick Fance, I would like to thank Greg and his team for a great day and everyone at Ealing Golf Club. Everyone really enjoyed the day.

Here is a reminder of fixtures coming up in the Section. 2010 Fixtures. The Summer Tournament will be held on July 21 at Muswell Hill Golf Club. We will have a BBQ after the golf with golf dress welcome all day, so no need for your shirt and tie. Also the club's Brewery is going to be supplying a bar on the course, plus Sherriff Amenity will also be there with another halfway hut. Form should be in the post when you read this!

The Turkey Trot will be held at Wyke Green Golf Club on December 2. This will be another great day in the calendar.

Please if you have any questions or suggestions on the Section please contact us.

You can call or use the web site www.biggalondonsection.co.uk.

Matt Plested
07818410333



Surrey

The sun is up, the sky is blue
There's not a cloud to spoil the view

Some words from the Buddy Holly hit song of the 60s and it cleverly contained the long-range forecast for June and the start of

July in the south-east of England in 2010. But do not concern yourselves, oh noble Surrey greenkeepers, for as soon as the schools break up at the end of the month the torrents of rain will fall and England will once again be a green and pleasant land.

Tuesday June 15, the date of the Cresta Cup at Terry Edwards' Hoebridge GC. A beautiful day with beautiful people....and Jim Russell. Terry deserves all credit for the excellent condition of the course which has to cope with some 60,000 rounds per year. Andy Gatland, Betchworth Park GC, coped well and won the aforementioned cup with 39 pts. Gary Rowe, Banstead Downs GC, with 36 pts pushed Ron Christie, our very own highly efficient Secretary, 34 pts, into third place. Jason Hunt, fresh from his honeymoon, was Nearest the Pin and Mark Harvey, fresh from the sleeping habits of his new baby, drove the longest. The 'Toro' footballs found new homes with Andy Foulds and Terry Edwards.

My partnership in the Surrey Bowl this year was eagerly accepted by John Ross and as our first round opponents were Terry Edwards and Jim Russell, we played both 'Cresta Cup' and 'Surrey Bowl' in one match. John and I lost but only after having an enjoyable round of golf and watching John pursue his unusual and absorbing interest in sand, by visiting most of the bunkers on the way.

Congratulations to Ian Morrison who has been appointed Course Manager at the Berkshire GC and the best of luck to his successor, whoever that may be at West Hill GC. Congratulations also to Roger Tydeman who will be leaving Croham Hurst GC to fill his new post as Course Manager, at Dulwich and Sydenham Hill GC, later this year.

Amusing stories and observations will always be welcome but not necessarily printed.

Brian Willmott



Essex

Channels Golf Club was the venue for our Summer Trophy. At the end of June around 63 lined up to tee off. We were greeted to a cloudless sky, hot temperatures

and hardly any wind to speak of. This year the committee wanted to do something special for our summer event, so we asked Channels if they would be prepared to put on a Bar-B-Q for us, the answer was simple a straight. Yes. What a day it was. We had a fine course set out to test the best and an halfway house courtesy of Collier Turf Care, one of our main sponsors (for which we were most grateful due to the high temperatures).

The format for the day was a Blind Stableford with cards drawn after play had finished, plus an overall winner and nearest the pins on two holes. Winners on the day are as follows:-

Overall and a place in the National Tournament.

Ben Scrivener 40pts

Winners of the Blind Pairs and places in the National Tournament.

Dougie Fernie & Keith Chinnery, 77pts; 2. Steve Crosdale & Mark Keysell, 76 pts; 3. Richard Stubbings & Jamie Hughes, 75pts. Sponsors & Trade. 1. Mark Keysell, 37pts; 2. Simon Banks, 36 pts; 3. Neil Peachey 32pts. Guests. 1. Paul Cooper 44pts, 2. Richard Stubbings 41pts; 3. Oliver Stubbings, 40 pts. Nearest the Pin on the 8th. Mick Bartlett. Nearest the Pin on the 17th. Benji Stubbings

After the golf we all gathered on the terrace by the clubhouse to enjoy a real feast. A Bar-B-Q to die for. More than enough food to go round, and that was followed by a desert of Lemon Meringue and cream or Apple and Blackberry pie with custard. Wow, polished with a few beers and every one went home happy. Our thanks go to Richard Stubbings and his family (the owners of Channels). To Ray Clark and his team for the course presentation and to the club captain Paul Cooper for presenting the prizes. A full appraisal of the results are on our website, along with a few photos of the day. Our thanks also goes to all those members that turned up to support this event it was the best supported one for many a year, long may it last.

Next stop is Boyce Hill Golf Club on August 14, so if you're quick you might just make the closing date.

The first Wednesday of July saw 15 or so of our members make an educational trip down to Ealing Golf Club. There they meet up with Greg Evans their

Course Manager and heard all about how he manages to maintain his greens at the height of 2mm. A twenty-minute rundown of how he manages his turf was followed by a look around the course. Spoon-feeding seems to be the method Greg has adopted to maintain those low heights of cut, plus lots of top dressing. I understand he also maintains his Tee's at a height of cut of 6mm, treating them in a very similar way to his greens. Great interest was taken in his maintenance facilities; I understand they were very impressive. Our thanks to Greg for his time and the presentation he gave us.

I will have a full update of the results of the Captain's and Greenkeepers match at Romford Golf Club and the Tuckwell Golf Team Challenge at Bentley Golf Club next month, both of these matches were in the middle of July.

If you have any news for insertion in this section of the GI magazine or on our website www.essexbigga.co.uk then please contact me at essexbigga@talk-talk.net or on 07764-862.337.

Arnold Phipps-Jones
Press Officer

South West and South Wales



South Coast

Hopefully by the time you read this we will have had substantial amounts of rain. Here at Barton the course looks like toast with green islands, water totals have already exceeded last year with a couple of months to go yet!

The annual match against the Wessex Secretaries took place at Highcliffe Golf Club in late June. The event sponsored by Course Care is in its 13th year and has become a coveted trophy.

I can proudly say that the greenkeepers were worthy winners 3 & 1/2 to 1 & 1/2 making us 7 wins to 6 since the challenge began. Your's truly being the only one to lose his match, no wonder Kevin stripped me of the captaincy! Many thanks to Course Care as always a fantastic day, long may it continue.

As I write this Germany have just put 4 past Argentina, does

that make it feel slightly better about our result? Being patriotic and all that I didn't dare admit it before but I had 20 quid on the Germans at very favourable odds well before the first ball was kicked.

Enough about football, so far this year we are having a true summer here on the coast, of course that brings its own problems with water or lack of it. The wind (not personally) has been my problem and never getting the water on the areas that require it most. Hose pipes, wetter pellets never mind the applications of wetting agent all seem normal this year, still, it won't last forever! I am not sure why but the club have just told me to order a verti-drain big enough for fairways, hopefully its made my local rep happy.

The results of the invitation at Stoneham will be in next months report. The autumn tournament is at Broadstone G.C. in October, remember this is our AGM and you can have your say. More details will follow nearer the time.

That is it for this month, I might just sneak down the beach and watch - the boats of course!

Tony Gadd



South West

Firstly, I have to give a huge thanks to Jamie Acton for filling me in last month. I hope you enjoyed his article, as Jamie mentioned that was purely a guest slot and I promise you I won't leave you all so easily next time....But honestly, cheers Jamie. Top stuff!

So let's talk about the important item first...My holiday. Last month saw me and a few friends heading to Las Vegas, and I have to say it was BRILLIANT. We spent nearly 20 hours travelling to get there, but I wouldn't take a minute of them back, it just all adds to the adventure we took ourselves on.

If you've been before, you'll know exactly what I'm talking about, If you've never been to Vegas, close your eyes and picture the bright lights, oversized spectacular hotels, casinos with endless slot machines and enough blackjack tables to keep entertained for a week (if you last

that long). During the day the temperature hit three figures, I wish I could have experienced this, but let me tell you, Vegas gets just as hot during the night.....that's enough though, people, What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas!

June 23 the Section took a trip day to the stunning part of the country, that being Dorset. During our visit to Dorset we stopped off and visited Dave Everett and his team at Lyme Regis. Lyme Regis was the hosts for our summer event this year, and the day went fantastically well! I actually have to say that this could have been one of my most enjoyable Section events I've attended. The sun was shining on a fabulous looking golf course. It was clear to see that Dave and his team do a brilliant job maintaining the golf course and spend they must spend a great amount of time to detail. The greens were a real pleasure to play on, extremely well paced and smoothest ball roll you could imagine. I have to mention the 16th hole at Lyme Regis, what a hole." *Talk about living life on the edge.*" This really was stunning, the views from this hole were second to none. With it running alongside the cliff's edge, I remember standing on the tee thinking to myself, don't go left, just don't go left. You can see where the cliff has been eating its way into the golf course, having moved its original tee already and a new green waiting for the old to disappear into the sea. Pure breathtaking!

The winners from Lyme Regis were as follows, Nearest the Pin - 8th Stuart Broom & 13th Adam Matthews. Overall winners - 3. Nigel Gridley, Nett 73; 2. Tim Morgan, Nett 73 (count back); 1. John Keenaghan, Nett 69. John will now go on to The Berkshire to represent the South West Section in BIGGA's National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse. Good luck, John!

The day was also extra special as we watched our England win its only game of this year's World Cup, I said we would win it four years ago, I also said we would win this year, however in four years' time, in Brazil, it will be coming home....you heard it here first! (I really do doubt your sanity, Ed)

For those of you that are a fan of Facebook, we now have a South West Section page. Like this article, it's yours. We hope to

Assistant Profile

Each month we take a light hearted look into the life of an assistant greenkeeper...

Basketball loving, Steve, likes to search for the hero inside himself, but in doing so nearly collided with the invisible man.



Name: Steve Hopkins

Age: 50

Club: RAF Cottesmore

Position: First Assistant

1. How long have you been greenkeeping?

Five years

2. What was it about the career that attracted you?

Working outdoors

3. If you weren't a greenkeeper what do you think you'd be? What I was doing originally - in the Royal Air Force

4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?

Fairway mowing. Looking back at your fine work is satisfying.

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

Raking Bunkers - Tedious!

6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot?

For our club? New machinery

7. Hobbies?

Basketball and picture framing

8. Favourite Band?

M People

9. Which team do you support (football or otherwise)?

Newcastle Eagles Basketball Club

10. What is your claim to fame?

Almost knocked over David MacCallum (Man from Uncle and the Invisible Man) in Macy's in New York

To feature as an Assistant Profile, simply email Scott: scott@bigga.co.uk and he will send you a questionnaire!

Around The Green

use the Facebook page to reach a few more of our members and some of the older ones also. The page will be packed with information regarding upcoming events and photos from past events. We will also include our patronage partners within this page also (a huge thank you to each of them for their support though out the year). Enjoy this luxury that is available for you. I hope that you received my e-mail with the Facebook link attached, if not, that's because I haven't got your e-mail address, apologies for that! If I could ask you to e-mail me, and I will forward the link back to you, and save your e-mail address for the future!

Guys, as always, feel free to contact me regarding any stories or thoughts you want to see in here, I'm sure some of you lead a more interesting life than I do. Take care people and I look forward to seeing you all very soon.

Adam Matthews

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South Wales

Hello Everyone! Sut Mae?

Firstly, let me say that it gave me no pleasure at all to be proved right about England's performance during the World Cup.

Wow! It's hard trying to type with my fingers crossed!

At least it meant that not many people outside of this side of the Severn bridge noticed that that Wales were mullered twice by the All Blacks and were quite pleased to have only lost by 19 points in the second game. Never mind. Now both the English football and the Welsh rugby teams can be home and resume being big fish in little ponds. Anyway, back to the section!

A belated congratulations go out to Richard Patterson of Cradoc Golf Club, who made an honest woman out of his partner, Mo Gibbons on 26th June. The ceremony was held at Hay on Wye and for their honeymoon the couple fancied seeing some wildlife close up (no, they didn't go to Merthyr Tydfil town centre on a Saturday night!) and so they spent two weeks in Kenya. Good luck to you both for the future.

The annual South West V South Wales Golf match will again be held at Ashburnham

GC on Friday 27th of August. To be fair, Ashburnham is many things, but it's closeness to the Severn Bridge is not one of them! I think a night out has been planned! Look out Burry Port! This event, which may or may not include the night out, has been sponsored by Inscapes, so thanks in advance to them.

The Rigby Taylor Matchplay Qualifier will be held at Neath GC on Friday, 20th of August. The format will be Greensomes, with the best four pairs qualifying for the final which will be held at Trefloyne GC in October. Good luck also to Peter Griffiths, head of car testing at Rigby Taylor, who is getting married on Friday 13th. This is assuming that he survives his stag night in Llandovery the week before! All the best Peter!

Well done to Ian Kinley and his team of Royal Porthcawl GC for great success that was the Ryder Cup Wales Seniors Open, and also to Huw Morgan and his staff at Ashburnham for the great condition of their course for the Welsh PGA Open. The home internationals now Huw! Good luck to you and your team for that.

That's it for now. The present Mrs Richards and myself have now moved and can no longer be described as Rhondda people as we have moved to the tiny Welsh hamlet of Cwmbach in the Cynon valley. Our new home has gas central heating, so no more sending the wife up to the coal shed in the snow. I shall really miss that!

Have a great August!
Ceri Richards
07732503855



Devon and Cornwall

Stuart Ashworth BSc, Indigrow's Technical Director, agronomist and South West sales rep sadly passed away on June 8 this year. Pete Gross, Head Greenkeeper at Ashbury Golf Hotel, and very close friend of Stuart, has kindly put together the following tribute.

"I think it would be fair to say that Stuiie wholeheartedly agreed with Mark Twain when he said "Golf is a good walk spoiled" yet he would go on to be a wonderful support for so many greenkeepers, not just in the south west but across Europe. He showed

a huge empathy for turf from a young age and in particular soil-gaining a degree in soil science in 1986. During the next 10 years Stuiie gained experience working as an Estates Manager in Northumberland, before moving on to Sunderland County Council and Rickerby Horticulture.

In 1993, he showed his stubborn and persistent nature in pursuit of his sweetheart, badgering a girl from a holiday romance in Exmouth to continue their relationship. Audrey was to become his wife in August 1996.

At this time Stuiie would join Indigrow as Technical Sales Manager and move south to Exmouth. He proceeded to become the 'greenkeepers' friend' with his own unique style that was always based on sound scientific values. He understood the importance of quick and accurate support, including identification of a wide range of greenkeeping problems and was always willing to put himself out to aid an anxious greenkeeper!

Stuiie lived life to the full and indulged in a diverse array of pastimes from snowboarding to fishing, the cello and various other musical instruments to scuba-diving and boating to cricket. And he was never adverse to a glass or two of wine or real ale!

In truth, Stuiie Ashworth was truly one of life's good guys who will be sorely missed by all in the industry and indeed anyone that was fortunate enough to have crossed his path.

Stuart was born July 14, 1967 in Rochdale and passed away peacefully in Exeter after a 7 ½ year battle with cancer that he fought with strength, courage and dignity on the June 8 2010 aged 42.

As Jack Nicklaus once said "Resolve never to quit, never to give up, no matter what the situation" - this was one golfer Stuart obviously listened to! He is survived by his wife Audrey and two beautiful daughters, Chlo-Jo (13) and Weebles (9). Gone but never forgotten!!"

This years Devon v Cornwall Golf match and Summer meeting was held at St Mellion International Resort on Tuesday, June 15. 70 members and guests enjoyed what was a truly memorable day. Those who played golf in the match were treated to 18 holes on the "Nicklaus Signature Course", off the white tees! This proved to be

a challenge for all standards and handicaps, but a tremendous experience nonetheless. The Nicklaus design course will be staging the "English Open" next year, which will be reintroduced to the European Tour. St Mellion has recently undertaken a massive redevelopment including, a new hotel, bars and restaurants overlooking the 18th hole. The Nicklaus Signature Course has had all bunkers redeveloped, new irrigation system and new cart paths laid as well as extensive landscaping work. The "Kernow" Course has had many holes redesigned and constructed to change the layout and make room for holiday housing. Mike Bush, Course Manager, and his team have had a very busy couple of years, but the outcome is fantastic. Those who didn't play golf were treated to a course walk. Mike gave a very interesting and enthusiastic tour of holes on both courses, including a stop at their very impressive maintenance facilities. The golf and course walk was then followed by a BBQ on the players terrace overlooking the 18th green. The prize giving and raffle then followed this. Prizes were kindly donated by the two sponsors for the day, Symbio and Sports Metals. Many thanks to Neil Carter of Symbio and Richard Japes of Sports Metals for their attendance and support of the section. Congratulations to Cornwall for winning the match 9-3. The trophy was presented by the Devon captain, Jason Brooks to the winning Cornish captains, Scott Gibson and Keith Kemp. A huge thank you to Mike Bush and the greenkeeping team as well as all the staff at St Mellion for what was a fantastic day.

George Pitts
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South East Region



Kent

By the time you read this, my fellow countrymen may have just recovered from the pitiful display our national team managed to muster in South Africa and the rest of the UK may just, but only just, have stopped laughing about it.

Expectations in life bear heavily on us all and if you or I failed so miserably to meet required standards we could expect to be in a lot of trouble. Messrs. Rooney, Gerrard et al will, however, no doubt return to their cosy lives oblivious of the despair they left behind in their wake.

It is proving to be another difficult year to meet expectations on golf courses too. The long suffering economy and extreme weather conditions (whatever happened to springtime?) are putting many of us to the test and, being the resourceful bunch that we are, most of us have been able to adapt and overcome many of the resulting issues imposed. Obviously, one of the major concerns is the most valuable resource of all, water. Strains on supplies of this sustainer of all life are being stretched to the limit and golf and leisure facilities are sure to be first in the firing line once restrictions start being imposed. I fear for those who do not have some water holding capacity on site. I'm sure that as many of you jet off to even sunnier and warmer climates over this holiday period, the scarcity of water will become even more apparent. Maybe we should be learning how to cope better from our Mediterranean friends.

I hope that as many of you as possible were able to join us at Herne Bay GC for our summer event on July 27. I know that one notable absentee would have been our Chairman, Kev Morris, who was busy in his duties of grandfather taking the little ones to Disneyland. Knowing Kev, he probably had more fun than anyone else there! Results and reports from Herne Bay will now be online at our webpage below. If Kev lets me have some pictures of him with Mickey Mouse, they'll be there too!

I shall let you get back to tending your brown and pleasant lands and wish you the best of luck in all your summertime activities. Make the most of your visits to the beach, barbeques and outdoor pursuits because, remember, this is still Britain so the sun won't last forever!

Best of British one and all.

Rob Holland

www.kentgreenkeepers.com



East Anglia

Diss Golf Club – 17 June 2010

Diss must be the place – well, Diss Golf Club to be more precise. Lovely course in pristine condition thanks to Robert Ransome and his crew. Nice to hear some skylarks.

About 55-60 lost souls turned up and it was well worth while. One or two trophy hunters scored 40 points, but I think the course won the day.

Scores were as follows: -0 – 9 Handicap: 1st Ben Wallis 36 pts; 2nd Danny Pearson 36 pts; 3rd Graham Hurren 35 pts; 10 – 18 Handicap: 1st Ali Barber 40 pts; 2nd Tony Thacker 38 pts; 3rd Mark Clements 37 pts; 19 – 28 Handicap – Real Golfers; 1st David Driver 42 pts; 2nd Steve Crab 39 pts; 3rd Pat Swinn 35 pts; G & T's: 1st Ian Weller 39 points; 2nd Andy Culdron 38 points; 3rd Basil Warren 37 points; Longest drive - 17th, Danny Pearson; 6th, Ali Barber; Nearest the pin, 4th, Graham Hurren; 15th, Ben Pearson.

Guess who won the loo seat? You guessed, Ian Willett. Hit the telegraph poles from 6 ft, twice!

Earnest Doe was the main sponsor of the day and the first prize was two Spurs tickets won by David Driver. I'll bet he's an Arsenal supporter!

Prizes were presented by the Club captain, Chis Castle.

The other trade supporters were Scotts, Headland, Aitkens, Sherriff, Rigby Taylor, Bartram Mowers, Ben Burgess, Collier Turf Care, Baileys of Norfolk, Tacit, Tomlinsons, Ransomes.

Our thanks once again Diss Golf Club for a first class day.

Picture this – you're in your Mess Hut, nice cup of tea, you've come through a dry summer, the coldest winter since '63, spring didn't turn up and you're in another dry spell. All in all, your course ain't too bad. You think!

In comes the Secretary: "Thompson" he says, "the Greens Committee would like to know why there are some bare patches around some of the greens. Why were they not seeded earlier?" You try to explain the conditions that have prevailed to no avail and then you remember that the cuckoo was also about six weeks late this year. The Secretary asks "What's that got to do with anything?" The reply comes as quick as a flash – "Well it seems the cuckoo has more sense than the Committee!"



John Pemberton
Chief Executive

Another Open comes and goes and congratulations are due to Gordon Moir, Gordon Mckie and the remainder of the greenkeeping staff at St Andrews for their superb presentation of the course. The television did not do it justice especially when seen in the early morning or late evening sunlight (when we had it!). The longer shadows accentuated the contours of the fairways and added something special to the approaches and greens, at such times I defy any golfer not to wish that this could be their home course to play as often as they like.

Thanks are due to the many volunteers drawn from the membership that formed the BIGGA Open Support Team and who represented the Association in such an excellent way. Personally it was nice to meet some new faces as well as catch up with members that I had met on some previous occasions. The Team had an unexpected extra duty to perform when called out at short notice to divot fairways at 4.30am on Saturday morning as a consequence of the delay in play the day before. Undeterred by the prospect of such an early start they took it in their stride, reinforcing to the R&A the value of the Team to the event.

Friday was memorable not just for the chaos that it caused in the pace of play but also for the presentation to Cecil George of the BIGGA Lifetime Achievement Award. This took place, quite fittingly, in the BIGGA marquee and was witnessed by many of his lifelong peers and supporters. Cecil has done so much for greenkeeping and greenkeepers as you will read elsewhere in this magazine and when I started with BIGGA in 1993, subsequently taking over the arrangements for the 'Bunker Rakers' as the team was known as in those days, Cecil and Jimmy Neilson were in charge of BIGGA's presence on the 1st tee, a role they were to continue for several more years.

By the time you read this column I will have had a further meeting with Dave Saltman (Pitchcare) and his fellow representatives from 'the trade' who are seeking to develop a one show strategy for the industry. As I write it has yet to be revealed to me just exactly which companies make up this group referred to as 'the trade' but I am sure I will be enlightened in due course. BIGGA and the IOG are in discussions about a closer working relationship on certain projects but I can assure our members and our supporters that this does not currently include abandoning Harrogate Week and Saltex in favour of a unified show. BIGGA is working hard to make its event at Harrogate meet the expectations of both exhibitors and visitors and the Board and Staff are determined to shake off and counter the criticisms of 'same old show, same old visitors'. We're up to something but you will have to wait to see what! Watch this space as they say.

John Pemberton
Chief Executive