

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!