

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
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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