

Care, our thanks to them. The results of the day were: Best Gross; Mike Hughes. Nett; 1. Vince Gilroy. 2. Simon White. 3. Richard Beacham. Division winners; 1. Wayne Banner. 2. Rhys Thomas. 3. Paul Jefferies. Trade; Tony Cheese. N.T.P. Vince Gilroy, Keith Swan, Leigh Swann, and Steve Mucklow, sponsored by Sherriff Amenity, White Moss, and British Seed Houses.

For more years than I care to remember the Midland Section has played an annual match against the East Midland Section, this year being no exception. Such was played at Stanton-on-the-Wolds Golf Club on October 14. After a good morning session the Midlands took a slender one point lead into the afternoon singles, 3 points to 2. Unfortunately we could not hold on, and lost by the narrowest margin of 7 to 8. I now know how the Americans must have felt at Celtic Manor! Many thanks to Tony Cheese and Rigby Taylor for their hospitality, which was second to none as always. Come on boys, if we continue to keep being beaten each year we'll end up known as the Silver Salver Section!

Now for an apology for a clanger in last month's Notes. I stated that the Christmas event at Woburn is to be sponsored by Tacit when in fact such is to be by Crocodile Golf. However Tacit has for many years sponsored our Christmas event and the Section thanks them for such. And the Section's thanks to Crocodile Golf for this year's main prize table, and looking forward to reporting on the results next month. Sorry for any confusion to all.

This month's calendar page is of the Wrekin Golf Club and the Wrekin Hill can be seen on the distant left of the picture. As we all know "you must go around the Wrekin" however each year a charity run is organised to go over such. To avoid going "Around the Houses" for your top dressings etc please see this month's calendar sponsors Whitmosse: www.whitmosseco.co.uk <<http://www.whitmosseco.co.uk/>> or call Mike Whitehouse on: 07795 395 669.

And finally a few words from our Section Secretary, Andy Smith:

Mike Firman Retires-Olton

Golf Club 1980-2010.

The end of the year sees the retirement of Mike Firman, Course Manager of Olton Golf Club, a position he has held for 30 years. Mike followed his father Bill into greenkeeping at Harbourne Golf Club before going on to manage Shirley Golf Club and then Edgbaston, and then taking on the helm at Olton. I (Andy) served my apprenticeship under Mike becoming his Deputy, which set me on my way in greenkeeping. Mike was an excellent teacher in the art of greenkeeping and a course manager ahead of his time. The lessons I learnt from him have stood me and many other a greenkeeper in good stead to this day. Our thanks. Mike you are always welcome to pop-in for a brew anytime at Shirley and I'm sure that the rest of the section join me in wishing you and your lovely wife, Jan, a well earned retirement together.

My thanks to Andy, Rhys, and Ed for the above.

Wishing all a merry Christmas.

Sean McDade



East of England

Hello all.

Apologies for the lack of an article in the last magazine, no excuses, it completely slipped my mind. However, when the entire future of your golf club is hanging by a thread then these things happen. I am pleased to say that through the overwhelming support and generosity of our small membership the short to mid-term future of the place is secure and with a lot of hard work so to will be the long term future.

Anyway, plenty to report this month. Firstly the eagerly anticipated Greenkeepers vs Trade match took place on September 22, at Lincoln Golf Club, Torksey. This year the Trade managed to turn out a full team, however despite that the Greenkeepers came away with a satisfying 4 - 2 victory. Many thanks go to all the staff at Torksey, especially Adi and his greenstaff for producing a course in excellent condition despite the fact the greens had

been hollow cored only two days previous. Thanks also to the sponsor for the day, Tony Kvedaras of Independent Turfcare Solutions. The medals look great by the way!

Our annual golf and AGM took place on October 14, at Louth Golf Club. A disappointing turnout for the day, however, those who did play enjoyed a course in excellent condition and excellent hospitality from the clubhouse. Many thanks also to LMS for sponsoring the day. The winners were as follows, longest drive - Ian Collett; Nearest the Pin - Russ Moody; 3rd - Robin Portess, Russ Moody; 2nd - Ian Collett, Ian Benn; 1st Rob Bemment, Phil Wilkinson.

On October 21, our team of Rob Bemment, Rob Welford and Ash Cox defended their Midland Region Inter-Section Championship at Frilford Heath. They did this in style and once again came away victorious. Well done.

Our next golf day is the Christmas Bring and Win at Sleaford Golf Club on Thursday, December 16. Tee off at 11am. Please contact Bruce Hicks if you would like to play.

All that is left to say is all the best for Christmas and the New Year (that has come around quickly!)

Hope everyone can make it to Harrogate.

Steve Beverly, Immingham Golf Club.



East Midlands

After a few quiet months the Section has been a hive of activity this month, so with space limited I will get on! First was the annual Midlands vs East Midlands match played at Stanton on the Wolds GC. This match has been likened to the Ryder cup - only BIGGA! Sorry! With the East Midlands recording four consecutive victories the midlands came eager to set the record straight, and after winning the morning fourballs were in pole position. However, a spirited fight back in the afternoon singles saw the contest come down to the last match played by yours truly, let's just say a nervy last hole

Assistant Profile

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

Name: Alex Clarricoates
Age: 18
Club: Newark GC
Position: Assistant
Nickname: Clarrijackets/Lightning



1. How long have you been greenkeeping?

Two years

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

Working outside, seeing wildlife, learning how to maintain courses and free golf!

3. If you weren't a greenkeeper what do you think you'd be?

A full time golfer

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

Construction because it is more hands on and it makes a change from cutting.

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

Raking bunkers because it takes forever.

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

More golfing

7. Hobbies?

Golf and football

8. Favourite Band?

S Club 7

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

Nottingham Forest

10. What is your claim to fame?

Played football at Grantham Town football stadium

Want to appear as an Assistant Profile?

To receive a questionnaire, email scott@bigga.co.uk