

Section Notes

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by the 5th
of the month

All the latest news from your Section

Around The Green



Scottish Region



Ayrshire

Hi to you all. As I write to you I have some serious sunburn... I've certainly forgotten how hot the sun can be. Haven't seen it in that long! Remember to put the sun block on and wear a cap if possible... especially those short on top!

Hope all your courses are coming along. I'm sure it's a grass factory out there now!

I've had the water on my greens every day during this dry spell, by hand of course. Growth has started to jump now so hopefully the weather can even itself out a bit and let us catch up on the cutting side of things. Big changes have been made here at The Dumfriesshire Golf Centre since the outing we had here a couple of years ago... should get yourself down for a game sometime, Be good to see some faces from the Section.

I don't know what they put in the water in Ayrshire but there's another congratulations for Andrew Donnelly, Thistle Groundcare, and his partner, Lynn. They too are expecting a visit from the stork - family car needed now Andrew. The Section wishes you both all the best for the future!

Was good to see Mike Dooner, Thorntrees Amenity, receiving rep of the month in last month's magazine... keep up the good work, Mike!

As you receive this month's issue The Open will have been contested... it's been decided that the winner this year will be presented with the Champions' Challenge Belt to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Championship. The Challenge

Belt was retired in 1870 when Young Tom Morris won it three consecutive times. It was then replaced with what was called The Golf Champion Trophy... Better known today as the Claret Jug. I myself have been lucky enough to be part of the BIGGA Support Team this year. I'll be keeping my eyes peeled for any news worth writing about in next month's mag!

Please do not hesitate to contact me about any news within our Section. Thanks.

Until next time.

John A Mair

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Central

There was a disappointing turnout for the seminar on Nitrogen fixing bacteria on May 19 by William Murphy but those who did attend heard a very interesting and educational presentation and our thanks to William, of Terralift, and Blair Young, of Aitkens, for making their time available for us. There was a much bigger crowd on the course walk of the Old Course on June 23, with over 50 greenkeepers in attendance with many BIGGA members from Sections outwith the Central one also coming along.

I hope those people who took the time to listen to Gordon McKie and me explain the preparations for the Open Championship enjoyable.

By all accounts Derek Scott is making a good recovery from his recent illness. Although he is still off work he has (allegedly) been spotted on the golf course at Slayle Hall and is currently convalescing in the Highlands so all those greenkeepers from

Newtonmore to Brora, watch out for someone in a wide wheeled hospital wheelchair on your course.

Andy O Hara is also recovery well from his recent argument with a golf ball. Apparently his nose is now straighter than ever but there is no truth in the rumour than he has changed his football alliance just because it has been a lovely colour of red and blue for the last few weeks!

Regards

Gordon Moir

East



Summer's Here!

Well, what a change to the weather... Temps hitting the high 70s... Watering systems to the ready, grass growing again, poa seed heads slowing up greens. Are we ever happy?

A good turnout for the pest control days that were run back in the month of May at Ratho Park. All who attended enjoyed the hands on training by Pest Control Officer, Harry Lawrie. We should have no moles popping-up on our golf courses now after Harry showing us some good tips on how to catch them. We kindly thank Mike Dooner, of Thorntree Amenity Ltd, for the sponsorship of the training days.

We can run more of these pest control short training days, if required during the winter months when things slow down on our golf courses.

The committee are presently trying to put together a winter programme for the East Section. Events such as lectures, talks, site visits, hands-on workshops etc. All these things take time to put together. If any member would like to see something that

may be of interest to the Section's membership. Something that we might not have covered over the last few years, then why don't you give me a call with some ideas and our committee will look at possibly adding to our winter programme of events.

Central Section are organising a course walk on June 23 run by Gordon McKie and Gordon Moir.... around "St Andrews Old Course" venue of The Open Golf Championship, by the time you read this all the greenkeepers attending will have seen the hard work that Gordon and his team have put into the preparing the Old Course for the biggest golf show on earth.

I for one will be glued to the screen every chance that I get.

Tom Murray 07709960163



North

I start this month off with yet another apology, the notes for last month were not in. I will pass the blame over to BIGGA again as they were sent away in plenty of time ready for the June issue. Anyway some of the news that you will read in this month will probably be a bit old but hey ho. I have put some of June's notes in this month's, as I feel they were quite important.

I begin on a sad note with the passing away of Sandy Gammack, Head Mechanic at Newmachar Golf Club. He was a well respected mechanic within the greenkeeping community in the North East. There was never a dull moment in the sheds at Newmachar, what with his singing, cursing and banging hammers off anything that got in his way. Sandy had the knack of stripping machinery down to its very last nut and bolt

and then from memory would rebuild it to his high standard. If you ever came into the sheds with one of the machines on full revs he would charge out of his workshop and you just knew he was heading for you to switch it off. He was everyone's pal and always had time for you. He would come and tell you jokes... some funny, some not so funny. His funeral took place in early May and was so well attended. Lads who had previously worked at Newmachar were there to pay their respects. Even Funky Dunky Adams, who no one had heard from since leaving the trade, turned up. He hasn't changed. Cough Cough Splutter Splutter! Greenkeepers and Trade from all over the North East turned up too. On behalf of the Section I would like to send condolences to Norma, his wife and all of his family.

On to other news now, I would like to wish Steve Sullivan, of Craigie Hill GC, all the best for a quick recovery following his recent health scare and hope he makes a speedy return to his work.

The annual trades competition has been and gone at Hazelhead GC again. George Mitchell has asked me to put the feelers out for next year's competition already. It is a scratch competition and he is looking for low handicap greenies. If you think you have what it takes to play in the trades then give George a shout on 07704851429. You could text him your details and George assures me that he will call you back or he might just let it ring once so you call him back! Only joking George. Both teams didn't do too well this year so they will be looking to improve on the second round.

Congratulations to Brian Hunter, from McDonald GC, Ellon. He has been selected to be part of the BIGGA Open Support Team at St. Andrews this year. I know he has tried before in the past and hadn't been successful, so this will make an old man very happy at last.

Congratulations also to Brian

Williams, Head Greenkeeper at Inverurie GC. He got married back on June 5. Well Done Brian and hope the day went by without a hitch.

Finally, you will be pleased to know that I have the Section outing results from Deeside Golf Club on May 20. What a scorcher of a day we had. The Secretary and the Scottish Chairman had to invest heavily in factor 50 sunscreen, in fact come to think of it there were quite a few guys there who would of had to get some, mentioning no names. We had a great turn out too which makes it alot more competitive.

The results are as follows: Nearest the Pin 1st. Stuart Clayton; Nearest the Pin 14th. Simon Hoy; Nearest the Pin 16th. Andrew Baillie; Guest Winner. Graham Leslie; Trade Winner. Jim Smith; Committee Winner. Ben Brookes; Veterans. 1. Jim McCormack; 2. John Geddes; Apprentice Trophy. Andrew Scott Class 3. 1. Mike Braidwood; 2. Niall Bruce; 3. Les Rae; Class 2. 1. Paul Shark; 2. Ben Brookes; 3. Jim McCormack;

Class 1. 1. Bob Hardie; 2. Neil Kidd; 3. George Paterson; Scratch. 1. Gary Tough 2. Kevin Thomson.

The 200 Club winners on the day were - Gordon Peebles, of Tacit. He was lucky enough to win two £30 prizes, Christine McKenzie, £30, and Donald Patience with the £100 top prize. Well done.

The three qualifiers for the Norrie Whittock Trophy, in August, are Robert Hardie, Paul Sharp and Mike Braidwood. They will be contacted by Dale as to when in August the competition is played.

A big thank you to everyone who supported the Section on the day. It was a fantastic turnout, one of the best we've ever had. With 65 people playing and three non playing it was a very busy day. The other Sections will be envious.

That's all folks for this month, once again apologies for last month's news. As usual you

can get hold of me either on 07813889374 or on tinternet, benbrookes@yahoo.co.uk.

Ben Brookes
Murcar Links

Northern Region



Northern

Hello everyone hope you are all well after our first glimpse of summer. I am sat here writing this article looking out on a dull grey June day, but on the plus side we did need the rain. As usual I do not have any news or gossip to report, so please if you have any please get in touch. If anyone would like to play in the annual Northern Section v the Sheffield Section on Wed, July 14 at Woolley Park please let me know. We do need a team of 12 players. That's all for this month. As usual if you have any news contact me Frank Stewart, 72 West Park Grove, Roundhay, LS8 2DY. Phone, 07947401278. E.Mail frankstewart3@hotmail.co.uk

Frank Stewart



North East

Hello all in the North East Section. What news can I bring you this month? Well there's not a lot of news going around at the moment, it's this time of the year that is hard to write as everyone are usually flat out grafting but I do have some, mostly about people moving around.

Well let's have a look at my memos as see Close House have recruited two more staff, these been James Parker, formerly of

Blackwell Grange, and Adrian Guiry, from Millbrook, somewhere in New Zealand! If any of you members read the free magazine called Golf North East (June issue) turn to page 11 and see their signature hole the 13th from the back tee can only think of one word to describe it "Awesome". Most likely will call it something else if I get the chance to play it.

Right then more news on the membership we have three new members, firstly David Thompson, who has been at Matfen Hall for the last eight years and who has moved to Hexham; Ryan Blemmings, who has started at Consitt, and Stuart West, who has started at Bedlingtonshire. No doubt Martin will have him transferred to the Cleveland Section in due cause. Don't do it, Stuart, we need all the members we can get at our golf dos.

Now, that's the incomings how about the outgoing. Recently I got an e-mail from Steve Quince, who's been working at Parklands for a few years, telling me that he had moved to Tyifjord GC, in Norway, as a Deputy Head Greenkeeper. Thought it was a nice gesture to let me know instead of coming via the reps. Think that's all about movement if anyone knows of any others please let me know I have heard about another but until I get confirmation about that subject then I will tell you about it.

That's all for this month. Hope to have some news for you soon otherwise I will have to write about my holidays.

Jimmy Richardson




Sheffield

Hello members.

Hopefully you are all keeping well and the Summer is going as planned so far. As I write these notes we have just had a glorious period of weather which I'm sure

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Around The Green

will have helped everyone get their courses in tip top shape. Hopefully having said this I won't put a jinx on the weather (fingers crossed).

Our Annual competition will be held at Hillsborough GC on July 7. It would be nice to see as many of you there as possible. There will also be the unveiling of our Spring/Summer 2010 clothing range or the polo shirts we have had made up! We received a delivery of the shirts recently and they will be available to members for a small fee. If anyone has is interested in snapping up one of these shirts then please don't hesitate in contacting me.

Our Annual match against the Northern Section will be held on July 14, at Woolley Park. We will be putting our team together shortly and members may be contacted to see if they are interested in representing the Section. If anyone does fancy a game then once again feel free to contact me or our Competition Secretary to ask for details.

Unfortunately I don't have much more this month, all I can say is that hopefully when you read this England are preparing for the final of the World Cup. COME ON ENGLAND.

James Stevens
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North West

Well now we are halfway through the summer and looking forward to the next golf day at Blackpool North Shore on July 7. There is still time to book a tee-time, with Phil Dewhurst. He can be contacted on: 07768180604.

The Spring tournament was well attended and a big thank you must go out to our sponsors, Cheshire Turf, Bathgate, Campeys, Tacit, Osprey Water Management and Acorn Golf Equipment. The results were as follows: 1. Eddie Ainsworth; 2. John McLauchlin; 3. Craig Morris; 4. Kevin Sweeney. The vets prize was won by Jim Grainger. The guest prize was won by Gary Potter

Nearest the Pin. Billy Merritt.

Longest Drive Simon Barker

A special mention must go out to Billy Merritt, who could not be beaten on his Nearest the Pin shot as he hit a hole-in-one, Congratulations Billy..

Not much else to report this month, hope the weather is kind to you all,

Cheers

Peter McVicar

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Midland Region



Mid-Anglia

The spring competition, the qualifier for the National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse, was held at Bedford and County GC on Tuesday May 18 and the weather was just perfect. Despite clashing with another golf day, around 30 golfers contested the event which was generously sponsored by Darren Mugford, of Rigby Taylor. Thanks very much, Darren, it was very much appreciated.

In first place was P. Martin with 36 points and also Nearest the Pin. Second was C. Garnett, also with 36 points, but just missing out on countback. And in third was J. Smith on 35 points and also winning Longest Drive. So the top three cleared up between them. Trade prize was won by your's truly.

Congratulations to Geoff Fenn and his team for presenting the course in such fantastic condition. Given the late spring that we have had, it can't have been easy to get the course in such good condition. And also well done to Geoff for completing the London Marathon in just over three and a half hours - excellent going.

Our sincerest thanks also to Bedford and County Golf Club for not only entertaining us so superbly, the meal was fantastic, but for allowing us to hold our competition there at such short notice. It was really most generous and I know that all the participants were very appreciative. Well done.

By the time you read this, the Summer Tournament will

already have taken place at Stocks Golf Club and a report will follow next month. We then visit Berkhamsted GC, on October 20, for the Autumn Tournament. Ashridge GC for the Turkey Trot in December date TBC.

Please let me know if you have any requirements for training courses such as Chemical Spraying, Chainsaw Certificates or anything else you might be interested in. There is some funding available and we are looking to organise courses in the near future.

That's all folks

Craig Spooner

craig.spooner@limagrain.co.uk



Midland

Well who was it then who broke the world speed record on a mower with a speed of 86 miles per hour? Must have been a weekend morning when mowing the greens, or should that be speed rolling, them!

The Greenkeepers vs. the President's team from Handsworth Golf Club took place on Tuesday, May 11. The course was presented beautifully as always by the Course Manager, John Hughes and his team. The President's team, Captained by Ted Mason, won by 6.5 to 1.5 for the first time since 2006. Thanks to the Greenkeepers team for their continued support of this great event which has been running for over 50 years, and of course thanks to Handsworth GC for hosting this long-running wonderful traditional match.

The first tournament of the year (unsurprisingly called Spring) event was held at Trentham Golf Club on Monday, May 17. Our thanks to Trentham and its Captain, Neil Sadler, for allowing us to play such at such a prestigious course. I have it on good authority that the course was excellently presented as by the Course Manager, Ed Stant, and his obviously super team. Well done to you all. The main prize table was sponsored by Farmura www.farmura.com please consider them for your liquid fertiliser needs etc. It may stink but it works, au natural.

The results of the day; Best Gross: Ed Stant. Nett: 1. Ed Stant. 2. John Ganley. 3. Paul Jeffries. Divisions: 1. Steve Scott. 2. Steve Thompson. 3. Clint Woodall. Trade: Paul Tanner/Crocodile. Both Ed and John qualify for the National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse, paid for by both the Section and Region. Good luck in that gentlemen. I wonder, did our Chair change the holes by any chance? Nearest the Pins were won by: A. Jones, D. Croton, L. Swann, S. Scott. Our thanks to Sherriff Amenity, British Seed Houses and Whitemoss for their sponsorship. We must also not forget to mention our old friends Russ and Kev, from Turners, for sustenance around the course.

The Summer event is to be held at Edgbaston Golf Club on July 19 with a start time of 2pm at a cost of £25. While the official closing date has gone if you speak nicely to Gary Cunningham on 07780 953 764 he will get you in, I'm sure. Our thanks to Edgbaston for its continued support over many a decade.

This month's calendar page is sponsored by the delicious (I love cheese) Tony Cheese/Rigby Taylor. Please consider him/them for your fertiliser, pesticides and other related products: t.cheese@rigbytalor.com or phone 07778 665506

For those requiring closing dates for the Scotts Doubles please see the Section's web page as such should be posted there.

Our new Education coordinator, Kim Blake, can be contacted on; Email: kimfulfordheath@hotmail.co.uk or Mobile: 07540 771 924. The first of Kim's "Education and Networking Meeting" was held at Fulford Heath on May 18. The event was attended by many and all enjoyed the demonstrations of both the new Eclipse 322 Triple Mower and the instant variable rate setting Turfco Top dresser.

The next meeting is to be held at South Staffs GC, on August 24, where the new Vertigo vertical drainage system will be in operation on Rhys's greens. Apparently this system bores a hole of 50mm to a depth up to five metres. Sounds interesting to me, but for further information please contact Kim on the above or Rhys, or visit the Section's website.

Sean McDade



BB&O

Sand martins are the smallest European hirundines (martins and swallows), with dark brown upper parts and dark under wings contrasting with otherwise pale under parts divided by a distinctive dark chest bar. These Agile fliers can be seen on occasion perching themselves in and around the Sandmartins Golf Course, in Berkshire, even though numbers are on the decline, Ben Edwards has managed to re-shape some of the natural habitat in and around the walls of the sand banks and numbers are now returning and on the increase. This cracking venue was home to our first golf event this year, the BB&O Spring Cup held on May 12 and sponsored by Golf and Turf.

This challenging course with two distinct and contrasting nine holes set in parkland with lakes, water hazards and dog-legs combines a stunning "links Style" inward nine with sand banks, broom, high riveted bunkers and hazards lurking on every hole. This offered us a cracking test of golf to start the season.

The results were as follows:

1. Paul Harden, Sonning GC;
2. Joe Newman, Retired, The Berkshire Artisans and still with a playing handicap of 7;
3. Sean Borrett Ellesborough GC.

Nearest the Pin, after a Stewards' Enquiry, was Adam, King Radley College and Tony May, The Berkshire GC, with Sean Haynes, Bearwood Lakes GC, taking the Long Drive after a monster hit on the 17th hole.

A very big thank you to Sandmartins Golf Club, and proprietor Andrew Hall, for courtesy of the course and providing the Section with the use of the club facilities; to Course Manager, Ben Edwards, for ensuring a first class challenge and to all the greenkeeping and clubhouse team for the effort that was shown in giving us a day to remember.

Thanks to our main sponsor of the day, Simon Reynolds, from Golf and Turf, who provided the prizes, and ETT, Farmura and Greensman for their Nearest the Pin and Long Drive contributions.

The Summer Medal Tournament will become the qualifier for the National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse, and be hosted by Matt Nutter, on August 26, at East Berks GC with best gross and best nett going on to represent the Section at the National Championship, which this year will be held at The Berkshire GC.

Congratulations to the Dominic Lewis family with a new addition to the clan. Robin Grace weighed in 7 pounds 15 ounces and I understand that Dominic and Granddad, Ted, are coping well under stress and doing just fine.

Finally, apologies for the lack of section news in the magazine, I can assure you all I have charged my ink well and sharpened my quill and hope to keep on scribing, so if you have any news of views, please get in contact. Talking of networking we have set up Twitter and Facebook accounts for the section. On Twitter we can be found on <http://www.twitter.com/bbgreenkeepers> and join us on facebook under the group name BB&O Golf section. These are very much in their infancy but could become great communication tools in the future.

Please email Adam King at ajk@radley.org.uk with your email address so that we can start to formulate a connection list.

Mark Day

Southern Region



South West

Firstly, I should start by mentioning that this is purely a guest slot for me – as I write this report on behalf of Adam he is probably busy packing his Union Jack printed beach towel, some sun cream and, of course, his bright pink Speedo's ready for a well deserved holiday, I'm sure!

In true 'Around the Green' style I am hoping to include the following material in this report: some talk about the weather, a mention of some golf day results and a section update including a

list of mouth watering fixtures.

Firstly, to the weather, as I write this we have just come out of an extremely cold and slow spring and have been propelled straight into a drought! Who'd be a greenkeeper? I never thought I'd ever be glued to Countryfile's weather for the week ahead hoping for rain ever again after the last few years. Good old Britain.

Our last golf day saw the re-introduction of our Greenkeeper/Amateur Tournament back in April. We had experienced 29 days without any sign of rain through the month until we turned up to play. The destination for this event was Woodlands Golf Club in Bristol.

The course was in fantastic condition and was a credit to the Green staff. The course turned out to be a great little track, very enjoyable to play. Anyone who has not played at Woodlands should definitely pay it a visit.

They have, over the past few years, undergone quite a transformation with a second 18 holes going in as well as newly constructed greens, tees, bunkers and loads and loads of water.

Well done to Tim Morgan, and

his guest, Colin Snell, who came out winners on the day with a score of 43 points.

We have got some exciting fixtures ahead of us this year and would welcome as many people as possible attending them. The confirmed fixtures are as follows: Summer Tournament; Lyme Regis Golf Club, June 23, Race night; Lansdown Racecourse, August 21, Autumn Tournament & AGM; Worlebury Golf Club, October 14 and the Christmas Tournament; Lansdown Golf Club, December 16. We have also got a match against our friends from South Wales in August (date TBC) so don't forget to get in touch with our Section Captain Wayne Vincent and make yourself available for selection.

I know that we as Greenkeepers can be subjected to a lot of added pressures and commitments that can be enforced by members' expectations and often these pressures can be escalated by the standards we set ourselves. Sometimes it can seem like we are never away from the place and we can get bogged down and frustrated by things. My personal remedy for this: Try your best to make at

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least one day away to a Section run golf event. Networking with fellow professionals can be such a rewarding experience as well as a great learning tool. Sometimes it can be exactly what we need, sharing frustrations and quite often finding out that we are usually all in the same boat. I strongly believe that if we can not give ourselves or the members of our staff the opportunity to play other golf courses and to meet up with other greenkeepers and enjoy a friendly, relaxed and atmospheric day away from work and supporting the industry in which we all work then there's something wrong. Please try your best to make at least one event this year; you may very well enjoy yourself!

The Section is in the process of setting its own facebook page which we hope can keep everybody even more informed as to what is happening in our Section. If you have not received it already, you may receive an e-mail with a link to our facebook page attached. If you are a user of Facebook please join. We want to use this modern tool to inform and record everything that is good in our Section – embrace the book!

If you need any further information about anything or have anything you would like to report please contact our section secretary Adam Matthews, adam.1.matthews@hotmail.co.uk

I look forward to seeing you all soon,
Jaime Acton.



South Coast

Hi all.

The spring tournament was played at Bramshaw golf club on May 13. This competition is played over 27 holes with the winners of two divisions going through to the National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse, paid for by the Section. The winners were: Div. 1. Mo Bah, 54pts; Dave Harfield, 54pts; Shane Hodgkins, 52pts; Div. 2. Chris Bitten, 57pts; Alex McCombie, 53pts; Bill Ridgely, 49pts.

The longest drive went to Luke Elgie and Nearest the Pin to Mike

Lake.

Sponsor for the day was Avoncrop Amenity. Many thanks to everyone involved and particularly to Jason and his team for presenting the course in superb condition. I had the delight of laughing my way round the course in the company of Brian Wilmott, from Tacit. With the quality of golf in our team all you could do was laugh.

By the time you read this the summer tournament will be upon us at Stoneham GC on July 15, if you are not already in hurry up, Stoneham is

Not much happening around the Section at the moment, most of us praying for rain, preferably not storm force. Having said that my recent outing to Basingstoke GC found the course in outstanding condition, where Colin, I am sure, wants anything but a deluge. Well done mate the course is a credit to you!

Here at Barton, the sea is a shimmering blue, the sky larks are singing and the brave are dangling under kites, using the cliffs updraught to stay in the air. Personally I think a barbecue for the couple of mackerel I have just caught beach-casting is a much safer option. Well that is just for today, see you at the next event.

Dont forget glassy2003@hotmail.com if you want to play at Stoneham.

Tony Gadd



South Wales

Sorry Guys and Gals but I don't have a lot to report on this month. The spring tournament was held at Trefloyne GC back at the end of May. However, I don't have the result of the golf at the time of writing. I do know however, that it was played in beautiful weather and the course was in very good condition, which was a credit to Gareth Knight and his hard working staff. Also the running buffet was excellent and so were the prizes which were provided by David Goldstone, of Tower Sport Europe. So thank you David for your continued support. Also thank you to Gareth and everyone at Trefloyne for their hospitality, and to Steve

Chappell for all his hard work in organising the event.

This month also sees the return of the Scotts Golf Management Trophy. This is an excellent event in which teams of club officials plus a member of green staff play in a golf competition, which this year is being held at Morrision GC. If you haven't already received an invite then please contact Steve Chappell.

Well done to Jim McKenzie and his staff on a successful Wales Open last month. The course looked great and the rain held off. Let's hope for more of the same in October!

That's it for now. The weather hasn't been great so far for turf managers during 2010. Let's hope that July brings back some sort of normality, whatever that is!

OK, the World Cup is about to start! I hope that by the time you read this that England are back home! Nothing against them, but I know that win, lose or draw, I'm going to see Wayne Rooney's face and Steven Gerrard's £5 haircut all over my TV screen! Maybe I'll go and sit in a darkened room for a month!

Ceri Richards
07831 168645



Devon and Cornwall

Message from the Duchy!

"On April 21 Level 2 and 3 Duchy College students travelled to Burnham and Berrow Golf Club at the kind invitation of Richard Whyman, Course Manager, and the golf club for an Industry Visit.

Richard provided information on the history of the club and the many historic and future developments. He explained the management programme that he had implemented to encourage fescues in the greens through over-seeding and Sustainable Management resulting in reduced costs and a high standard of playing surface.

The afternoon course walk allowed students the chance to see the results of these techniques first hand. The students thanked Steve Evans, Richard Whyman and Burnham and Berrow Golf Club for organising

the visit. Thanks also to Billy Mitchell for attending and supporting the visit.

Many of you will already know through the "greenkeeper grapevine" that Steve Evans has left Duchy College and his job role as Greenkeeper Tutor and Assessor to return to greenkeeping. Greenkeeping was always Steve's very great passion and the paperwork required by the college was not! For my part this is a very great loss to the college and to me. Steve, the rest of the team and I worked really well together and he was always 100% committed to greenkeeper training. The College and I wish Steve the best in his new job role at Ashbury Hotel and Golf Club. The College is currently seeking a replacement and will be advertising nationally but if there is anyone out there please let me know. Ron Skinner, 01579 372220."

A very successful Evening Course Walk took place on Tuesday, June 1 at Perranporth Golf Club. With 14 members in attendance, Billy Mitchell, Course Manager led the course walk around this fantastic and natural links course. Billy, was heavily involved in trial work for the "Rescue" herbicide and now with the full backing of the management committee, has started a full programme across all the greens.

George Pitts
Section Secretary
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Kent

As our corner of this fantastic country basks in summer sunshine and multitudes of golfers flock to our courses, the never ending Winter we endured seems a world away. As I write this the whole country appears to have been caught up in a wave of patriotism seldom ever seen as our national team mount their latest attempt to bring home the World Cup in South Africa. I only hope they are still in the competition by the time you read this!

Management at golf courses up and down the land have

been dreading this World Cup as many of their regular golfers will have chosen to forego their usual golfing exploits in favour of watching football for a month. This obviously will impact on club finances (as well as the viewers' marriages) and it has been interesting to see how some clubs have tried to diversify their marketing in order to attract as many golfers as possible in order to soften the blow. Here, at Birchwood, we have painted huge St. Georges crosses on lawns outside the clubhouse (see website) and hung flags from every available post and pillar so our players can see how committed we are to their golf and football demands. It certainly seems to be generating interest locally if nothing else!

The next Kent Section golf day is only round the corner so try to get some practice in between the football matches (as you can probably tell, I would never make it as a marriage guidance expert). Our happy group of golfers shall be travelling to the North Kent coast to play Herne Bay Golf Club on July 27 (perhaps you can drop the family off at the beach first!). This is our third outing this year and the days just seem to keep getting better. It has been nice to welcome several new people to our events this year and I'd like to thank everyone for making these days so enjoyable and to all our sponsors for helping to subsidise the costs of putting on our various activities.

Nothing more to add this month but please check out our webpage for more regular news, results, player handicaps and sponsors. I hope to see as many of you as possible on the 27th at Herne Bay where we can all indulge ourselves in a day of golf by the seaside and musing over where it all went wrong for England's football team!

Best of British
Rob Holland

www.kentgreenkeepers.com



Surrey

Thursday June 3. Welcome to the third summer of 2010 and goodbye, I hope, to the fourth winter. My central heating has been on and off so many times this year I have now decided that as June is now here, come hell or high water, the thing stays off until November. Today the weather is glorious and although I know you are all desperate to see the rain you will have to wait until after the weekend because for Brian it is on with the shorts and with bucket and spade in hand it's back to Ventnor for a short break on the good old Isle of Wight while leaving our new controllers, David and Nick, to look after the mainland and the world.

Tim Watts is congratulated on 40 years continuous service at Puttenham GC and I apologise for not putting this in last month's edition. This means that I should have reported this month that Tim is to be congratulated on 40 years continuous service plus several months and having known Tim for 20 years plus several months I am delighted to do so now.

Mark Harvey is daddy of the month and his father, Bill, a long suffering member, sorry that should read long serving member at Epsom GC - where Mark is Head Greenkeeper - is grandfather of the month. Mark's partner, Diana Cook, is mother of the month and their baby girl Alissa, born May 19, weighed in at 7lb 2.5ozs and is just pleased to be here.

With no other news it just leaves me to let you all know that I've recently booked my August holiday and St Peter Port on the Isle of Guernsey is to be the main subject of interest in the October edition.

Brian Willmott



John Pemberton
Chief Executive

As I sit seeking inspiration for my July column I ask myself where the first six months of 2010 have gone. It's hard to believe that the Open is only a couple of weeks away when memories of a spectacular finish to last year's tournament at Turnberry are still relatively fresh in my mind.

My hopes are pinned on a British winner, the game needs the lift that this would bring and it would be nice to see the UK get behind its hopefuls in a similar, though perhaps not quite as flamboyant, way to that demonstrated in football for the World Cup.

As you will read elsewhere in this edition of Greenkeeper International the annual BIGGA Charity Golf Day was a great success and thanks go to Q Hotels for courtesy of the course. A thank you also to those teams that entered and without whom the event would not have taken place, congratulations go to the team from Ransomes Jacobsen who were the overall winners. As always the day provided a useful opportunity for BIGGA staff, greenkeeper Members and industry representatives to network in an informal atmosphere.

The early indications for the Association's results for the financial year just finished (30th June) are positive and should produce a moderate surplus, the budget for 2010/2011 is not quite as good though and so much depends on Harrogate in particular. The bookings to date are reasonably good with 74 exhibitors confirmed and a significant number of others who say that are not yet in a position to commit. If you look at the plans on www.harrogateweek.org.uk you will see that we have reconfigured the four main exhibition halls and BIGGA will itself take a more prominent position. A new initiative for 2011 is to develop the environmental side of the golf club and we will be creating a zone dedicated to related products and services. If any members have contacts for potential exhibitors then please pass on details to Sue in the office, she is already working on a number of leads but a few more would always be helpful.

Finally I would like to congratulate Cecil George who is to be presented with the BIGGA Lifetime Achievement Award. For many Cecil is noted for his regular contribution to BIGGA's AGM or perhaps his past involvement with the BIGGA Open Support Team but his real claim to fame comes from the many, many years of dedication to the development of education in greenkeeping and the promotion of the job as a career. Spend time in his company and you will soon discover his passion for greenkeeping and greenkeepers and how his wisdom, knowledge and experience has touched and influenced so many people over the years. As I sit and write this it is hoped that arrangements can be made to present the award at the Open which would be a fitting opportunity.

John Pemberton
Chief Executive

Around The Green

Please send your notes to Scott MacCallum by the 5th of the month. Email: scott@bigga.co.uk