

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](http://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](http://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](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk)