

## Section Notes

Please email your notes to  
[scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk)  
by the 5th  
of the month

All the latest news from your Section

# Around The Green



## Scottish Region



### Ayrshire

Hey folks. Wednesday, April 27 saw 30 Greenkeepers travel to Largs Kelburn Golf Club for the Spring outing. A typical Ayrshire day greeted us with wind and rain - par for the course! Not that the wind or the rain was a worry for us hardened weather beaten boys.....A certain greenkeeper must have woken up with a sore head this morning as those pin positions were challenging to say the least! Nice one Lefty! A great day was had by all and our thanks must go to Iain and George for having the course in great condition for us. Thank you!

Results: 1st Class. 1. Ian McDonald, 36pts; 2. Robbie Macbeth, 35pts; 3. John Mair, 30pts; 4. William McMeiken, 29pts. 2nd Class. 1. Dale Norquay, 38pts; 2. Colin Murray, 32 pts; 3. Ewan Grant, 30pts; 4. Duncan Gray - 29pts. Trade Prize. Derek Duthie, 33pts.

Well done boys! Keep it up for the Autumn outing at Dumfries & County.

A big thank you must also go to Derek Wilson, Peter Boyd and Jim Paton for the running of the day. A lot of work is put in by these guys for our section which is greatly appreciated! Thanks gents.

News has filtered through the industry about Mr Gordon Peebles. Gordon has recently become the proud owner of a senior bus pass... like to see him ditch the old Tacit van & go on a bus...lol.

Also Mr George Brown has been spotted hitting a ball in anger again after an operation to get a new knee. Hats off to you

George, glad your getting back into the swing of things!

I hope all your courses are coming along and things are going well. If not, you know where I am. Any news big or small don't hesitate to contact me. [johnmair982@btinternet.com](mailto:johnmair982@btinternet.com) & 07500874449

John Mair



### East

This month's report starts with our Spring Outing to Kilspindie Golf Course.

Our Chairman, Stewart Crawford, welcomed everyone to Kilspindie on Tuesday, April 13. Notable attendees were, our Scottish Chairman, John Geddes, and, ever present, our Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd. Thank you both for supporting the Section.

List of prize winners: Scratch Winner. Scott Corrigan, Greenburn GC, 70 gross. 1st Class. 1. Mark Pagan, Eyemouth GC, 76 nett; 2. Keith Burgon, Goswick GC, 69 nett. 2nd Class. 1. Ryan McCulloch, Goswick GC, 65 nett;

2. Robbie Murdoch, Dundas Park GC, 67 nett. Trade Winner. Gray McCandles, Rigby Taylor, 64 nett BIH. Best Nett. Tom Murray, Ratho Park GC, 67 nett. Veterans' Prize. George Aitchison, Duns GC, 70 nett; Guest Prize. Derek Scott, Scoonie GC, 61 nett. Longest Drive. David Greenshields, Barenbrug. Nearest the Pin. Jim Darling, Aitkens Seedsman Ltd.

Well done to our two Course Rangers, Jimmy Neilson and Jack Dalrymple, for making sure that we all kept a steady pace round the golf course and helping out with any stray golf balls to be found .... those was the ones which stayed on dry ground.

Our Chairman thanked Paul Casley, General Manager, for having the East Section at this great venue, and the Head Greenkeeper, John Arbuckle, and staff for the excellent condition of his golf course.

The Chairman thanked all the patrons for their continued support and wished everyone a safe journey home, hoping to see all at the Summer Outing - the Willie Woods, at Gullane GC

Until next month

Tom Murray



### Central

Hands up, I got well caught out last month saying how good the Stan Zontek/USGA seminar was when in the end it had to be cancelled because of the volcanic ash situation. Unfortunately they were stuck in the States but as I write they are busy trying to reschedule for September so watch this space. Saying that, as I write this at the beginning of May, Irish and some Scottish airports are shut again which can have a huge impact on Scottish tourism and as a result financial implications for a lot of golf clubs.

Luckily I was much more accurate predicting the winners of the Spring outing and got them all correct! Well done to Kevin Muir and his staff for getting the course so good following the recent floods he had to cope with. Things are well under way on the Old Course in preparation for The Open. A number of stands are already up and the tents begin to go up towards the end of May. The Central section has organised a Course Walk with Gordon McKie and me on June 23. Meet at the Jubilee greenkeeping sheds at 4pm, and members from other Sections are also welcome.

Gordon Moir

## Northern Region



### Northern

Hello everyone, hope you are all enjoying the spring sunshine. The first golf event of the new season was a great success. The event was held at Sandmoor GC, played on a fine sunny day, on a superb playing surface. On behalf of the Section I would like to pass on our thanks to John and his staff, and everyone connected with the golf club.

The competition was a medal off the white tees. Winner of the Scratch Cup. T Gerrard. Div 1. 1. A. Court; 2. N. Coultish; 3. A. Baxter. Div 2. 1. J. Watts; 2. A. Holroyde; 3. N. Booth. Div 3. 1. G. Street; 2. B. Knowles-Jackson; 3. P Colley. The winner of the trade prize was G. Potter; 2. I. Collett. Our thanks also go to Tito, and Sherriff Amenity, for their sponsorship. If anyone has got a trophy to be played for at future events, would they please try to get them to a member of the committee before the event. As usual if you have any news or gossip PLEASE pass it on to me, Frank Stewart, 72 West Park Grove, Roundhay, Leeds, LS8 2DY. Tel. 07947401278.

Frank Stewart



### North East

Well it's that time again already for Section news. What have we got this month? Funny enough the phone did ring this time, in fact, several times. Doesn't news travel fast via

mobile what a wonderful invention. Anyway let's get down to the nitty gritty. On April 21 we had our Spring competition at the City of Newcastle GC. A couple of records were broken there. Firstly I believe that it's the first time we have had a competition there – I certainly cannot remember playing there in recent years. Secondly, it was the first time that I had actually won a Spring event - the best nett, and, thirdly, it was the worst turnout ever for either Spring or Autumn comp.

In fact, very embarrassing, to the point that an apology was made to the club and the steward for lack of support. What do we have to do? We have changed the day, changed the teeing off time to an afternoon maybe we should change the month. By the way, only seven people bothered to turn up with only one or two regulars missing. I'm just looking through my comp. file. We have averaged 15 players since 2008, the last time we had over 20 playing was in 2006 at Stocksfield and the largest field was at Matfen Hall in 2004 with 30 persons playing. My how times have changed. Mind you we have lost a few members on the way to other Sections and different professions. Anyway let's get to the results.

Best nett J.S. Richardson 79-8-71 (T.S.L. Trophy) Hexham GC; Best gross J. Gibson 74 Salver, Northumberland GC; G. Brown, 73, Wooler GC

S. R. Pope, 75, Tyneside GC; R. Black, 77, Westerhope GC; R. Reid 80 Prudoe GC; G. Lee no return.

My thanks to the City of Newcastle Golf Club for giving us courtesy of their course and to Barry Walker Head Greenkeeper and his staff for presenting a course in tip top condition as all who played agreed. Considering the winter and dry spring we have had it's a credit to you Barry.

Lastly, to our sponsors on the day, T.S.L. (Terry Charlton); Rigby Taylor (Glen Baxter); Tacit (Peter Marshall). Thanks lads.

Right what else do we have? Yes more moving around. First Craig Parkinson, formally of Matfen Hall, has moved back to working as a greenkeeper at Slaley Hall and Aidan Love has moved from Loch Lomond to Close House. Good luck to the both of you in your new jobs.

Now only one item left. At a recent regional meeting I was asked if we would consider having the Golf Management

Trophy in our Section. This is a four man team event - Captain, Secretary, Green Chairman and either Head Greenkeeper or member of his staff. Somehow this would have been a good competition to have a few years ago but now I don't think so considering the turnouts we have had and it's likely to be held in the summer so it might be a good idea to pass it on to another Section to consider.

Well that's the lot for another month.

Jimmy Richardson



### Sheffield

I know I say this every month but I really do hope that when you read this we will have finally had a decent spell of nice weather. It seems that the most things have been against us at the start of 2010, im sure though that everyone is working hard and remaining positive to get through this difficult time.

Our Spring competition was held at an excellently presented Chesterfield G.C.

Mark and his staff provided us all with an excellent course to play on the day, thanks must also go to the catering staff who also provided us with an excellent meal to finish of a good day. I would also like to say a massive thankyou to Pro turf for once again sponsoring our Spring event.

The results: 1. T. Strong 40 pts; 2. D. Coop 38 pts; 3. L. Davies 36 pts; Trade T. Dodson

Personally I would like to thank Andy Bunting for continually giving me news to fill my column. Andy has recently taken over at Kenwick Park G.C which is near Louth. Good luck Andy we all hope it goes well for you.

On the section front we are in the first stages of planning this Winters lecture programme. Im sure you will agree that these events provide a vital part of our Learning and Development. This years events are being carefully planned by your Committee so that everyone will find them beneficial.

Thats all from me this month. I hope June goes well for you all and I will speak to you again in July.

James Stevens



### Cleveland

Hi everyone, hope you are all fit and well. How bizzare is the weather?. Its just so cold at the moment as i write this piece, second week in may and still got winter long Johns on! Very little growth on the greens, up to a week without any rain at times and a frost forecast for tonight. Not exactly as most of us would like it i am sure but none the less, the show must go on.

A little bit of news for you this month as follows. Congratulations to James Parker and his wife Sarah on the arrival of a new baby boy. Oscar arrived on Saturday 24th April i am told, all fit and well. Secondly, James has landed a new job at Close House, he will be leaving Blackwell Grange and starts on the 10th May. Well done

On Wednesday 21st April a seminar/workshop was held at Llyods of Bishop Auckland and the subject was Cutting Technology and After Cut Appearance, as well as operator safety and fault finding on ride on equipment. The event was organised by Alister Whitby and was presented by Ian Sumpter of Toro. It was a very good day and im sure those who attended came away a bit more wiser. Well i did, but that doesnt really take much doing!! Dinner and refreshments were provided by Llyods. There was also a talk for the Cleveland section held at Billingham golf club in the evening. Thanks to Lloyds, Alister and Ian Sumpter for putting on the event.

That is it for now, no more news to report,

Any news  
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### North Wales

Well at least we have got a reasonable column for you his month. To start the spring tournament golf day took place at Caernarfon Golf Club on April 28 and on a beautiful, if rather windy day 24 of North Wales'

best took to the really well managed turf. I believe all, including myself, were very pleased with the course that Martin Roberts, Charlie Land and co. provided for us. Well done, we were all exceedingly grateful to you and your preparation of the course.

A big thank you also has to go to the catering for the quality (and quantity) of the food provided on the day. It's not very often we are given the choice of four main courses and four desserts, Andy Acorn nearly tried all the desserts, he, I believe, got as far as three but had to give up to help me and Terry Adamson work out the scorecards. I feel I must point out that I'm sure we normally have a better turnout at the Spring tournament and I'm afraid anyone who didn't go because of travel concerns really missed out on an excellent day.

Results of the day were: 1. Paul Stanley, 36 pts; 2. Nigel Green, 32 pts; 3. Rhys Butler, 29 pts. Best gross also went to Rhys Butler with a score of 76. Best guest went to J. Richards, with 31 points, and best trade went to John Mooney, with 30 points. Paul Stanley and Rhys Butler now qualify for the National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse Turf Machinery, at The Berkshire later this year. The CONNECT trade show at Conwy golf club seemed to be a success with local suppliers showing big brands and what was even better it was hands-on with demos on the practice area. A big thank you has to go to Dave Lewis, and all at Conwy, for holding hopefully the first of many years of this event. Pictures of the golf day and the CONNECT event now available to view on facebook group north Wales bigga. In local news we send our thoughts to the friends, family and colleagues of Les Gower, of Penmaenmawr Golf Club, who died in tragic circumstances on April 27. Les had been in greenkeeping for 35 years.

Gareth "Bronco" Williams, of Portmerion, was on television in a silent hero show on s4c where he and his wife, Janet, were treated for their selflessness in giving over 100 foster children a welcome place to stay in their time in fostering. Well done, Bronco, perhaps Portmerion will be known for you being on television instead of The Prisoner.

Well I think that's about it all the best until next month

Pete Maybury petemayb66@aol.com 07756001187



## Midland



### East Anglia

Purdis Heath had the dubious honour of being the first venue for the motley crew of the 2010 season. Norman Fenwick had the task of getting the course in some sort of order following a severe winter and a spring that didn't turn up. Norman and the crew did a very good job.

It would seem the winter break did some good for the trophy hunters as the scores will show. Half of the winning scores were 40 points or more. The real golfers scored the usual amount 20 – 30.

The 'who's who' of our section are as follows:- 0 – 9 Handicap  
1. Nick Brewster, 43 pts; 2. Peter (I'm retired) Howard, 38 pts BIH; 3. Mark Henderson, 38 pts. 10 – 18 Handicap. 1. Mark Clements, 41 pts BIH; 2. Tony Thacker, 41 pts; 3. Jonathan Smart, 37 pts. 19 – 28 Handicap – Real Golfers 1. Roy Britton, 40 pts; 2. Paul Ashcroft, 38 pts; 3. Graham Broughton, 36 pts. G&Ts. 1. Lewis Blois, 43 pts; 2. Reg Claydon, 40 pts; 3. Chris Cushnahan, 38 pts. Nearest the Pin. 10th Steve Millard, 15th Nick Brewster. Longest Drive. 7th Ben Wallace, 17th Glen Rayfield

The recipient of our brand new loo seat was Lewis Blois. Although he scored the most points, he also managed to hit the clubhouse on the 18th. Said he hit the road and it bounced – Yeah Right! Hero to Zero in one afternoon!

All the prizes were presented by Neil Ellis, Club Manager.

The day was sponsored by Bartram Mowers/Textron and well supported by:- Aitkens, John Deere, Headland, Rigby Taylor, Bailey's of Norfolk, Sheriff, Collier Turf Care, Mike Lish (Stumpbusters), Tomlinson, Tacit, Doe's.

I am sure that the 70+ who turned up had a good day – Thank you Purdis Heath once again.

You might like this one. Secretary asks greenkeeper to read an article from a magazine about fast greens, "Is the author a greenkeeper or agronomist?"

asks the greenkeeper. "No, he's actually a merchant banker by profession, but a very good golfer, his name is Warrington Smyth" said the Secretary. (Put a 'Y' in Smith and he's an expert – thinks the greenkeeper). After four cups of tea and three Chelsea buns he's read all about cutting greens to within 1mm of their life and using vibrating rollers every other day and three times on Mother's Day, usual squit. Secretary returns, "What do you think?" he asks. "You're right about one" thing replies the greenkeeper, "He is definitely a merchant banker!"

Mick Lathrope



### Midland

Well what can we talk about this month then? Fishing, not again Mac (not Paddy Bill!). Perhaps the opportunities that our fine profession can, and does, offer us. I cite the great accomplishment of one of our long standing members, Dave Gibbons, Deputy at Little Aston G.C, Four years ago he and John Ganley asked me to join them in undertaking a Foundation Degree so that the course could be run. Unfortunately my then boss prevented me from undertaking such. However Dave was able to complete his foundation and then continued with a B.Sc. HON's in Turf Grass Science. He, by his own admission, was not academically interested at school or indeed talented in such. Yet greenkeeping stimulated his wish to study further and improve his skills and understanding of this exacting science and art. Dave would like to thank Andrew Boristion and Little Aston for their support of him while completing his Degree.

It shows what can be achieved, and the levels available but we all must start at the beginning and work our way through to the level we wish. Our Section offers many courses, and indeed is open to putting-on what is wanted and required. Please contact our newly-appointed Education Coordinator, Kim Blake, with your thoughts for any education and training needs: 07540 771 924.

Many years ago I use to play

the Bromsgrove Golf Centre with two of my best friends on a weekly basis. They were always flabbergasted on a Sunday morning that I had been to work prior to our morning tee off time. I always found the course to be in great condition and enjoyed such every time. It was only nine holes then, but such has now become a full 18. Ted Evans has over the last 19 years been the Head Greenkeeper and instrumental in its success and development. Ted is now retiring and perusing his passion for golf, Angling (good form), and to do all of those jobs his wife has been waiting to be done. Pauline, keep him busy lass (sorry Ted). From the directors and the Section, enjoy your well deserved retirement mate. Ted's successor is Mark Cunningham and all the best to you in your new position. Well done Mark on your new post.

Now just a reminder, our summer tournament is to be held at the lovely venue of Edgbaston GC on July 19, start time: 2pm, at a cost of £25. Please get your entries into Gary ASAP to avoid disappointment. What a great venue.

Now we come to our wonderful sponsors of our superb calendar for this month. Such being our old friend's North Staffs Irrigation Ltd. Please consider them for all of your irrigation and drainage requirements. Please see their web page on: [www.northstaffsirrigration.co.uk](http://www.northstaffsirrigration.co.uk)

Until next month. Cheers.

Sean McDade



### Mid-Anglia

Apologies for no Section report last month, I had to move home office and everything was packed up! Upcoming golf tournaments are at Stocks GC on Monday June 14 with a barbecue and smart casual dress code. Berkhamsted GC is on October 20 and Ashridge GC will be the venue for the Turkey Trot. The first tournament will have been held at Bedford and County Golf Club by the time this goes to press so look out for the report next month.

Not much news this month but no doubt everyone is getting

geared up for the kick off to the World Cup. The schedule looks pretty good so hopefully you won't need to change hours/shifts etc, you have just got to watch how much alcohol you consume if you are on an early. Failing that, you could always ask an Irish, Welsh or Scottish colleague to stand in for you. I shouldn't be so smug as I am sure at some point we will manage to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory or fail to negotiate a penalty shoot out. Maybe I need to trace my family history so that I may discover a long lost Spanish/Brazilian/German relative so that I have a fall back position. Oh well, the anticipation is great, we could still win it at this moment in time!

Craig Spooner

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### East of England

Apologies for the lack on notes in the last magazine, the timing to get them in was all a bit hectic for me.

April began with getting the golf course ready for the first big open event of the year. This was followed by greens hollow coring and topdressing. The course then had to be prepared for its first ever Pro-Am just two and a half weeks later. Conveniently timed in the midst of all this was the safe arrival of our second child, the beautiful Violet Lily Beverly, who arrived safe and well on April 10.

The weather continues to baffle all at the moment with temperatures up near 20 degrees a few weeks ago, yet this morning there was a "white over" frost! However while many are crying out for steady temperatures to get the grass growing, Here at the Immingham grass factory we have been growing steadily for weeks and this cooler spell is being welcomed to slow the growth down.

By the time this is read our first golf day of the season will have been and gone, hopefully all will have been well at Newark Golf Club. A full report will be here next time.

As I write, Gordon Brown has just resigned and David

Cameron is about to take over running the country. It will be interesting what the effects this new government will have on the country and how it will hopefully help the golf business somewhere down the line.

All the best for summer.

Steve Beverly, Immingham Golf Club

## South East



### Surrey

Thursday May 6. We should all be voting today so will one Party win outright or will David, Nick and Gordon be playing Deal or No Deal with each other to form a Hung Parliament? If hung, it is a bit like television's Masterchef, with three cooks inventing a menu or, in our Leaders' case, inventing a manifesto.

Three Leaders, one being told you are not staying and leaving the other two to cook a new menu, and not the books, as in the same old way. Of course, by the time you read this all will be decided and so will our fate for the next five years.

Golf at Laleham on April 27 was a fun Texas Scramble followed by a running buffet. Thanks to John Ross and his merry men for being game enough to have such an event so early in the year when growth has been so slow, due to the cold and dry conditions. My team (Willmott's Bankers) played a steady game but could not get anywhere near "Christie's Cockerels", who took first prize. Dave Guy's team were runners up. Dave did tell me the team's name but modesty forbids me from repeating it here. Longest Drive was hit by Wayne Sewell and Nearest the Pin was struck by Gary Rowe.

Baby of the Month, Jude Galloway, 8 lbs. 4 oz was delivered to Donna and Lee Blackburn, Blackmoor GC, on February 8. Congratulations to both mother and father and the stork for being on time.

Jason Hunt was missing from his usual team (Christie's Cockerels) at Laleham because he was getting married to Melissa Brady, in Orlando, on April 20, followed by a honeymoon in St.

Lucia. Due to the volcano dust Jason and Melissa were delayed but are by now a happily married couple.

Wednesday May 5. Golf again and this time Burhill GC was the venue. Excellent and with greens so slick and borrows so difficult to read, Ron Christie's gross 75 was easily enough to win the scratch prize. The nett competition was won by Gary Pitfield, 71, second place Roger Glazier, 74 and Paul Bacon again 74 on countback. National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse Turf Machinery, qualifiers are Gary Pitfield and Wayne Sewell. Longest Drive winner, Rob Surgey and Nearest the Pin, Stewart Clayton. Next competition is the Cresta Cup, June 15, at Hoebridge GC.

Remember, there is space available in the July edition for any news, views or humorous happenings. Please let me know, or my holiday memoirs will start re-appearing. You have been warned.

Brian Willmott



### Kent

Now that the spring has finally arrived, all seems well again in the world of golf.

Tiger Woods is back on the scene, albeit with his (proverbial) tail tucked firmly between his legs. Warmer weather has also returned after an all too long stay of absence and my golf clubs have actually seen the light of day! Indeed, my first round for several months saw me hitting the woods better than ever, but I had terrible trouble getting out of them! And my irons found the water hazards so regularly that I'm thinking of getting my ball retriever re-gripped.

I have never been one to go overboard on practising, however, and the distinct lack of input on my part certainly showed at our second golf day of the year. The venue was the majestic Wildernesse Golf Club for our National Qualifier and despite some iffy weather prevailing leading up to this event, the clouds parted and the sun shone down on Kent's finest as we made our way to Mark Todd's great course.

On what was polling day for our new National Government, our members decided to vote with their feet and take up nearly all the available slots that Wildernesse had offered us. Kev did his best to organise the start sheet, prizes, bacon rolls and score cards and, despite many of us offering moral support, steam was billowing from his ears soon into his day's duties. Kev was also charged with being official photographer on the 1st tee and took action shots of everyone as they started their rounds. Vic, from Ernest Doe's, also made a welcome return with his junior snack wagon loaded with fizz pop and candy bars. Unfortunately for most, Kev's new hi-def camera exposed the effects of what eating too many candy bars can result in around the waistline area. Pictures should be online by now on our website. If you would like yours removed, and you are willing to make a donation to my favourite charity, give us a call!

Although, as I've said, the standard of golf was not great on my part, we had a great time at Wildernesse. Larry Pearman gave us the laugh of the day when he asked us to keep an eye on his ball when attempting to play a shot 12 inches behind a pond then proceeding to drill it under the water three feet in front of him!

The course was in pristine condition as ever and it was interesting to talk to Lee Relf, Mark's deputy at Wildernesse and (once) owner of an extremely dodgy handicap, about the changes that have been instigated at the club on all the woodland areas. Our group certainly took full advantage of getting a close look of pretty much every tree on the course as one duff drive after another headed straight for the lumber yard! At the end of our round came a great meal and we would like to thank everyone at Wildernesse for a fantastic day. Local knowledge played a big part in the results as you'll see: 1. Mark Todd, Wildernesse; 2. Steve Gunner, Wildernesse; 3. Malcolm Gofkin, Hadlow College. Trade Prize was won by Neil Pullen who also achieved the Longest Drive

In a couple of weeks we'll be posting an application form for our next event at Herne Bay so please get your entries in early to secure your place as our increasingly popular group visit

the North Kent coast. Before that I'm sure we'll all be glued to our tellys watching England's latest attempt to win the World Cup (for the first time since West Ham won it). So enjoy your work, your golf, pray for an England victory and fly the flag for our team.

COME ON ENGLAND!

All the best

Rob Holland

www.kentgreenkeepers.com



### Essex

The Spring Trophy at South Essex Golf Club went off like a dream. The nice warm weather that greeted us on our arrival made the day even more enjoyable and the forecasted rain stayed away.

Our thanks go to South Essex Golf Club for a day that ran smoothly, the food and hospitality was excellent and the course was in a condition that the staff should be proud of. Our thanks to Peter Dawson and his team. The full results are on our website but the main winners of the day were as follows: Spring Trophy Winner. Anthony Kirwan, 41 pts Division 1 (0-15 handicap). 1. Ray Clark, 35 pts; 2. Dominic Rodgers, 34 pts; 3. Stewart Rogers, 32 pts (count back). Division 2 (15-18 handicap). 1. Dougie Fernie, 37 pts; 2. Mark Stopps, 36 pts; 3. Sam Anderson, 35 pts. Trade. 1. Neil Peachy, 36 pts; 2. Mick Fance, 31 pts (count back); 3. Ian Denny, 31 pts. Guests. 1. James Tuckwell, 43 pts; 2. Barry Larcombe, 40 pts; 3. James Lilly, 36 pts. Nearest the Pin. Stewart Rogers and Simon Barber.

An improved prize list and raffle prizes, with a first prize worth winning, rounded the day off nicely and our thanks once again go to all that helped make it an enjoyable event. We intend to follow the same format of prizes and raffle for all our events this year.

The website continues to improve with pictures from our first golf day, a small number of pictures from the BMW at Wentworth. A full list of results from the Spring Trophy, the Order of Merit so far, plus the Knockout Draw and job section.

This this month brings us the



# Around The Green

Summer Trophy, June 22, which is being played at Channels Golf Club. It's a Blind Pairs competition with the pairing drawn after play has finished so that makes it good fun and gives you a chance of winning even if your round was not up to scratch. Plus we are having a Bar-B-Q afterwards so get your entries in and come and have a great day. There are also three stabs at getting to the National later this year with the blind pairs and overall winner receiving a place.

Book early as it looks like it will be well attended and you would not want to miss out on this one.

The following month July 20. P. Tuckwell Ltd are holding the Tuckwell Golf Team Challenge to be held at Bentley Golf Club, you should all be getting an entry form through the post very shortly if you have not yet had one. Details from Neil Peachey.

Please note that inadvertently the following Sponsors were left out of our fixture list: BMS Products Ltd, contact Matthew Corbould - 07973-155.408 and Blade Amenity, contact Richard Lewis - 07715-588.861 we apologise for any inconvenience.

If you have any news for the website or for GI please contact me on 07764-862.337 or via e-mail [essexbigga@talktalk.net](mailto:essexbigga@talktalk.net)

Arnold Phipps-Jones  
Press Office

## South West and South Wales



### South Coast

Hello everyone and welcome to the South Coast Around the Green. It seemed like a good idea in late 2009 to share the writing of these articles between the committee but as I've left it to the last minute I'm not so sure now, but here goes.

We are currently constructing a facebook page, so look under bigga south coast and join the group - get involved.

We will have had our first golf outing at Bramshaw Golf Club by the time you read this so the results will be in next month's magazine.

At Moors Valley we have put

in a planning application for the construction of another nine holes and a new clubhouse, so if successful, it looks like we will be busy, sorry, busier for a while.

That's all the news I have for now, Tony Gadd is your columnist next month so if you have any news, give him a call.

All the best for the rest of the season or as an old guy I worked with in Scotland used to say "Never weaken, don't let the ----- grind you down".

Ian Noble  
Moors Valley Golf Course



### South Wales

Hi Everyone

I regret that I have to start this column with some bad news. My old colleague and friend from my days at Mountain Ash Golf Club, Andrew Matthews, lost his long battle with cancer and died on April 17, just short of his 40th birthday. Andrew worked as an Assistant Greenkeeper at the club for 20 years and I can honestly say that he was a pleasure to work with.

We both had a similar taste in music, Andrew used to tape some of his Cd's for me (What with me being too tight to buy them myself!). He could sometimes be late for work, even though he only lived 50 yards from the sheds! Andrew leaves behind a son, Christian, who was probably the tallest person at the funeral, and who wore a Liverpool shirt to the service to honour his dad's devotion to Liverpool FC and who often took the trip up the motorway to watch his beloved reds. Condolences also to his dad, Geoff, who was Secretary at Mount for many years, and all his family, including his uncle Bernard, Head Greenkeeper at Tredegar and Rhumney GC. Rest in peace mate!

News from the Section now. On Wednesday, April 14, around 80 people attended The Celtic Manor Resort as part of the Section's series of evening lectures. It was a very interesting night with Director of Golf, Jim McKenzie, giving the gathering of Greenkeepers and Groundsmen an insight into the preparations for the big event (No, not Jim's forthcoming

wedding! Though good luck and best wishes to Debbie and Jim for that.) No, The Ryder Cup, the third biggest sporting event in the world, and it's coming to Wales! It was a great night and a great way to round off what has been an excellent series of winter evening lectures. Thanks to Jim, Chris Sealey and Martin Nash for their presentations. Also to The Celtic Manor Resort for their hospitality, and finally to Martin Townsend and Peter Holstrom, of Countrywide, for their continued sponsorship of this Section via the evening lectures. May I take this opportunity to assure all companies that sponsor this Section that they will never be taken for granted and that all will be thanked at both Section meetings and in this column.

The Spring seminar at Royal Porthcawl GC was a big success, with over 40 attendees. There were some really informative presentations on preparing courses for major tournaments given by some excellent speakers. So a big thank you from the section to Huw Morgan MG, Richard Windows of STRI. Gordon Moir, of St Andrews Links Trust; Ian Kinley, of Royal Porthcawl, and Jim McKenzie, of The Celtic Manor Resort. Also thanks to Steve Chappell for all his hard work in organising the event; to John Reynolds for demonstrating the Verti Go drainage system on the putting green; to Royal Porthcawl GC for hosting the event and providing an excellent lunch and finally to Jonathan Harmer, David Binks and Peter Lacey, of Farmura Environmental, for sponsoring the day. Gerald Orme sent his apologies as he was unable to make along the event.

The following night saw the return of the IOG Dinner and Dance which was held at Taff's Well RFC. A large attendance, including a 'Fact Finding' delegation from our Section, were treated to a lovely meal and an exciting raffle. There was then a performance by Graham Cox, or 'The Singing Greenkeeper' as he is known locally. Graham thrilled many (and startled some) with his singing, and I have to say that his rendition of 'Danny Boy' and 'Nessum Dorma' were truly memorable.

Good Luck to Ian Kinley, of Royal Porthcawl GC, in preparation for the Ryder Cup Wales Seniors Open which is being staged there this month and

also to Huw Morgan MG of Ashburnham GC who are staging The Welsh PGA Open, also this month.

Have a great June!  
Ceri Richards 07831 168645



### Devon and Cornwall

Hello all. It's our quiet time so no events to report. The next event will be the Summer meeting at St Mellion on Tuesday, June 15. There will be a Golf Match between Devon and Cornwall. If you prefer, Mike Bush, Courses Manager, will be leading a Course Walk, showing off all the new redevelopments on both courses and facilities. This will be followed by presentations and a BBQ on the terrace. Those who haven't already put their name down, please let me know asap, as I'm sure it is going to be very popular.

One of our stalwart members, Buster Lewer, has retired at the age of 65. Buster is very well known in the Section and has supported many BIGGA events since moving to the region. Buster was Head Greenkeeper at Dainton Park, Devon, having been appointed at the very start of its construction back in September 1991. Coming from Wells GC with a strong recommendation from Nigel Pring, Oake Manor, who had worked with Dainton's owner David Wood, he has worked tirelessly to grow and mature Dainton Park to become one of Devon's most popular clubs. Inheriting an "Arable desert", Buster has helped plant 20,000 trees and install up to 5,000 Railway sleepers as well as a period of endless stone picking, all in-house. David Wood described Buster as having a tremendous work ethic, second to none. The whole Section wishes Buster every happiness in his retirement and we still hope to see you at future events. Also, best wishes and every success to Alan Potter in taking over as Head Greenkeeper at Dainton Park.

Again, any notes, stories or events you would like me to include, please let me know.

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## South West

Hi people, hope all is well! You'll all remember me talking about a new set of workshops, that I'm sure will become available to you all, these being the work of Lawrence Pithie. In the South West the first workshop took place at Minchinhampton New course. This workshop was titled "Planning & Budgeting". It covered all aspects of the golf course a manager would need to take into account, from leadership skills to making your budgets in all the areas on and off the course. I attended the workshop myself and have to say how great it was and I'm sure that it will only help me to better my career (as it would for anyone who attends I'm sure).

This month we also reintroduced our Section's greenkeeper amateur. This was held at Woodlands Golf Club. At Woodlands they have 36 holes and we had the pleasure of playing the "signature course". It's just a shame that we played in heavy showers, although this did not affect a great day enjoyed by all. Woodlands is mainly a pay and play golf, this is clear to see that it is set up this way. With little rough and fewer bunkers and a huge fleet of golfing buggies, it makes for an enjoyable round of golf for all levels. This is by no means a criticism, far from it, David Knight (the owner of Woodlands golf club) has done a fantastic job in achieving such a popular venue for golfers in Bristol. I had the pleasure of partnering with Kyle Knight, playing alongside Chris Sealey and his Greens Chairman, Pete Schrader, I can only say that the weather on the day was more consistent than our golf, but we still had an enjoyable day, cheers guys.

The results for the greenkeeper amateur are as follows: 1. Tim

Morgan & Colin Snell, 44pts; 2. Simon Pearce & Mike McGarr, 43pts; 3. Roger Neale & Kieran Hector, 41pts. The Nearest the Pins were won by Tim Morgan, at the 15th, and Mike McGarr, at the 17th. It was great to see a rather impressive turn out for this event. Great stuff guys!

Remember that our next golfing day is at Lyme Regis, on June 23. Lyme Regis was featured in last month's Greenkeeper International, (read it, it's pretty impressive). Set on edge of Dorset, built on the biggest land slip in Europe. This will be our Summer tournament and as always a place for the National Championship is available to the winner. This year National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse Turf Machinery, will be played at the Berkshire.

For those of you that don't know, but I'm a football referee in my spare time. On the bank holiday Monday I had a trip to Luton Town v York City, in the blue square premier play off second leg. This fixture really was the most amazing experience I've had on a football pitch. In front of just under 10,000 screaming fans, the noise, the atmosphere.....everything was just amazing! The ground is set up so the crowd are right on top of you. The noise just echoed. I remember walking under the tunnel and onto the pitch and it just hit you, I had the hairs on the back of my neck standing on ends. I can't really comment on the game too much (nor the afterwards... as it went by before I knew it. You go the whole season wondering, is this really worth it, so much time, so much travelling, sometimes working with people who just hate referees...yes it's worth it, every minute of it. More of this please!

Look forward to hearing from you guys.

Adam Matthews  
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## John Pemberton Chief Executive

More and more I see the term 'One show' being bandied about in relation to BTME and SALTEX, almost as if it is a foregone conclusion that the two events are going to merge.

The reality is that a number (as yet to be quantified) of companies are finding the current market place in turf management difficult and are therefore looking at ways of spending less, while at the same time trying to raise product awareness.

Pitchcare, wishing to broker a solution to the exhibition debate, invited exhibitors from BTME and SALTEX to a meeting at the NEC in March so that concerns by 'the Trade' could be aired. I hasten to point out that I had a senior member of the BIGGA staff attend merely to listen to what was being debated and not as a measure of support. Following the meeting I have had representations by a number of companies that were deeply concerned about the direction the meeting took and are not at all in support of the proposals made on the day. There remains a great deal of support for the status quo and I do not go along with the claim that there is an overwhelming support for a single show.

The industry is divided I admit but in some ways that is the nature of the industry. Everyone is looking for something different and as I keep on saying there is no one solution that will suit all. I know from my own research that the major manufacturers (often colloquially referred to as 'the Big Boys') would like to see one show but they are settled into a pattern of alternate years and are not pushing the issue. BIGGA and the IOG have been invited, somewhat under duress, to attend a meeting with this anonymous group styled 'the Trade' to listen to their concerns and discuss the options, although I understand that we are going to be presented with the option of moving towards one show or 'the Trade' will abandon thoughts of attending BTME and SALTEX and form its own new event. We have agreed to meet 'the Trade' and a date has been set for late July.

In the meanwhile plans continue as normal for Harrogate Week 2011. There are already a significant number of stands sold and if at any time you wish to see who is attending then visit [www.harrogateweek.org.uk](http://www.harrogateweek.org.uk) where there is a floor plan. The site can also be accessed from the home page of BIGGA's main website.

Bigger and better things are in the pipeline on the education front, building on the success of the event earlier this year with some high profile international speakers already booked. The full programme will be available in due course but it is guaranteed to contain something for everyone.

A word of caution to those companies that think it is clever not to book a stand but prefer to mix with the visitors and sneak sales talks in at every opportunity. That is not playing the game fairly and we will not hesitate to ask anyone caught doing this to leave.

One show or two shows it really does not count for anything if the visitors do not attend with their enquiries or cheque books. Over the years BIGGA has done a tremendous amount of work for the greenkeeping profession which has helped improve the status of the job and the quality of facilities. Has BIGGA really got it that wrong or do we need a wake up call to the members, their non member colleagues AND their employers about the consequences of holding back support?

## 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)