



Surrey

May 6, its official, by now you could have voted for my new political party 'BALLS' and given me a retirement present that will keep me in luxury for many years to come. My Political Manager, wee Dougie, has assured me that his recent fact finding mission to Trinidad was two weeks of non stop hard work and should we win he has chosen his and my beach-side second home in a convenient position only 12 hours from Westminster. Please remember our slogan 'You play ball with us and we'll supply the referee'.

Darcey Eve Rowe will be almost four months old this month and wondering why your's truly did not mention her birth, 7lb 13ozs, on January 16 in an earlier edition. My excuse is that the information given to me by daddy Gary, Banstead Downs GC, was put in the wrong pocket and was retrieved only just before the offending piece of clothing visited the washing machine. Apologies to mummy Elaine, baby Darcey, and daddy, Gary. Had I left this news any longer Darcey could have read the paragraph all by herself.

My first kick boxing bout went well and that the cut to my forehead is healing well. My opponent was not so lucky as the cuts she received cannot be repaired and her tights were a complete right off. Sorry, of course, I don't mean that her tights came off, I mean, oh you know what I mean. What I really mean is don't trip and head butt a window frame it hurts.

Still, no holidays booked and few ideas so please when I next call have some holiday destinations ready for my perusal and a subscription to 'BALLS' the party that looks after number one.

Brian Willmott



Essex

By the time you get to read this, the first of our golf days will

be over. Well done to the winners and I hope you all enjoyed the day at South Essex Golf Club. Results will be posted next month.

I mentioned last month that I would be giving you a full list of our sponsors for the 2010 season, the underlined are the new sponsors who have joined us this year they are as follows:-

Advantage-Environmental; Billericay Farm Services; BMS; Chaingreen Ltd (Sea Nymph); Old Forge Mowers; Avoncrop Amenity Products; Bailey's of Norfolk; Banks Amenity Products; Blade Amenity; CMW Equipment Ltd; Collier Turf Care; Ernest Doe & Sons; Fieldfare Amenity; GM Amenity; Golf Mats UK; Grasshopper (Horticultural) Ltd; Headland Amenity Products; Limagrain UK; Prime Irrigation Ltd; Rain-bird Europe; Rigby Taylor Ltd; Scotts Professional; Tey Farm Systems; P, Tuckwell Ltd and Writtle College. All their contact details are on our website. We welcome them all to our Section and thank them for their support.

I hope you all like the new look website?

It would be nice to have any constructive comments on the site, as it is there for your information and not just for me to play with in my free moments.

Our next golf day is Tuesday, June 22, at Channels Golf Club there is a new format for the day and a Bar-B-Q afterwards. It should be fun so put it on your list of things to do, £15 entry fee, which is real good, value for a day's golf and the meal after. We all look forward to seeing you there.

April 27 Spring Trophy at South Essex GC; June 22, Summer Trophy at Channels GC; July 13, Essex Greenkeepers v Captains of Essex at Romford GC (Invitation); July 20, The Tuckwell Golf Team Championship at Bentley GC. (Invitation); August 12, Essex Trophy at Boyce Hill GC; September 29 Autumn Trophy at Benton Hall Golf & Country Club; October 14, The Doe's Triangular, Essex/ Sussex/Surrey at Three Rivers Golf & Country Club (Invitation); December 2 AGM and Team Event at The Essex Golf & Country Club

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Chief Executive

By the time you read this we should have launched the updated and much improved BIGGA website that incorporates many new features including a payment gateway, a calendar of local and national events, an improved Classified Adverts section and improved log-on security. Take time to explore the site and take advantage of the wealth of information that is available, all designed to help keep you in touch with the industry, improve your knowledge base or do your job more effectively.

One of the next measures that is currently being investigated is a web based Continuing Professional Development (CPD) software package that will enable Members to manage key elements of their CPD registration and, hopefully, the Membership Database. CPD is an important part of career development and we live in a world where qualifications are an essential building block towards that next job.

One of the Association's objectives is to raise professional standards through education and Members need to take on board the fact that experience alone will not be sufficient in the future. If you have not registered with Sami or Rachael at HQ for CPD then I ask "Why not?". More and more it will become a dominant feature of a great many career opportunities and the Association is looking at the feasibility of incorporating CPD into its membership structure.

If you are unsure of what CPD is or how it can help you progress then I suggest that you take a look at the following web site which is part of the Chartered Institute for Personnel and Development: www.cipd.co.uk/cpd/aboutcpd/whaticpd.htm

I continue to be amazed at the total apathy that some people seem to demonstrate and wonder to what they aspire. Many are often quick to be critical of the success of others or complain that life has dealt them a poor hand of cards but rarely do they do something about helping themselves. It's true that we cannot all achieve that top job but we can all do better, we can all raise our self-esteem and confidence through learning. The golf industry is going through some very testing times and I think that the economy in general is far from close to picking itself up off the floor. A General Election this month will, in my opinion, only add to the country's problems with no clear and effective outcome. For all our sakes I hope I am proven to be wrong.

On a more positive note I am pleased to announce that Rigby Taylor have offered to sponsor a Hole-in-One prize of a car at this year's National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse Turf Machinery, in October.

If you want more details of the event then contact Sandra at HQ but be warned that available places are going quickly.

We have now completed three quarters of our new financial year and I am pleased to report that we are ahead of budget and should end the year with a small surplus, a very different result to the one that we anticipated. This has been achieved through a combination of careful control of expenditure and improved revenue. We are now working on the budgets for 2010/11 which will be a more problematic year.

Finally I would like to wish Kirstin at HQ and her husband, Andy, many, many years of happiness together following their marriage on April 23rd.