

South East



Kent

Every two years an event occurs which is of such mind-blowing magnitude that its reverberations are felt for long afterwards by all who were privileged enough to witness it. While I appreciate my wife's recent endeavours I am, of course, talking about the Celtic Manor Ryder Cup.

Ever since some infamous US staged events where a slightly over-exuberant, highly partisan crowd took the gloss off what should be the greatest showpiece the sport we know, love and strive for, there is always a certain amount of trepidation as to how the home crowd would try to influence the game in front of them.

Fortunately, at Celtic Manor, the crowd were the perfect accompaniment to a feast of glorious golf. Even the typical Welsh weather couldn't dampen the spirits of the assembled (or the viewers watching patiently at home as Cliff Richard wasn't invited). And wave after wave of rainstorm seemed to take the organisers by surprise and threaten to wreak havoc with the event and the course. The players were all imperious, however, and even though the US players hadn't done their research on the weather they should expect at that time of year and had to send out for heavy duty rainwear, the rain didn't dampen their supreme ardor.

From the start the players mesmerised the galleries with their talent. I suppose one of the few surprises was that the numbers one and two in the world were outplayed not only by the European combatants but also their superb rookie colleagues who seemed to thrive in the team event.

In the end, what a finish! After four days of ebb and flow on the scoreboard to all come down to the final game played between two great players was something that just could never be scripted. The Europeans emerging victorious

amid scenes of genuine, joyous celebrations.

One shining star of the event was of course the Celtic Manor 2010 Resort. Superbly presented for the spectacle and, despite the constant rain, the main playing surfaces never relinquished their perfect finishes to the storms that swamped them. Well done to Jim McKenzie and all involved in the preparations for the tournament.

Nearly as high profile was our most recent outing to another of Kent's fine courses on our late summer golf day. The venue and the prospect of playing with Kent's finest had attracted guests from Sussex and Surrey. They helped contribute to a great turn out at Duncan Kelso's immaculate King's Hill Golf Course. Even the weather was on our side as this usually windy location had decided to have one of its few benign days. Vic Maynard, of Ernest Doe, made a very welcome return with his refreshments and saw the players off at the first with a drink and a smile to start the round off. Kev and I were joined on our round by the undeniable golfing talents of Darren Burton, of North Foreland. Despite threatening to bring him down to our level pretty much all the way round, he gave us a sound education into how the game should be played. Well done mate.

As I said, a great course and great company as ever. Thanks to Barry Bradshaw and the greenkeeping team on a job well done and to the caterers for the meal.

Results as follows: 1. Tim Maynard, Wildernesne, 39 pts; 2. Darren Burton, North Foreland, 37 pts; 3. Gary Branchett, Tenterden, 37 pts. Nearest the Pin was won by Mark Roach and Longest Drive by Ben Smith.

Many thanks to Brian Willmott, and Tacit, for donating prizes on the day.

Lastly, don't forget November 25 is the date for the highlight of the year. Yes, it's the Turkey Trot time again to be staged at Birchwood Park. Previous attendees know how much fun we have at this event and this year should be no different. Please see web page for times, current handicaps and all other relevant information. As ever, this event shall include

our AGM. We aim to start the meeting after the meal which will be about 6.30pm. If you have any issues you would like discussed or would like to stand for any official position on the committee please let us know so we can add any such matters to the agenda.

Hope to see as many of you as possible on the day.

Best of British

Rob Holland

www.kentgreenkeepers.com



Surrey

Friday October 1. The Surrey Bowl Final, played at Foxhills GC on September 28 was a terrific match between two quality golfing teams. Jason Hunt and Tom Relf were up against Kevin Boxall and Phil Rowlands and after eight holes the score was all square. The teams had 12 gross birdies between them with the match being decided on the 16th green. Jason and Tom were victorious and were presented with the prize money and cup by Richard Faulkner, of ETT, who sponsored the whole event.

Many thanks to them and they have agreed to continue sponsorship next year. The Surrey committee would like to thank Dave Wyborn and Foxhills GC for allowing us to use their excellent golf course.

While the above teams were playing their first nine holes, I partnered Richard on the nine hole par 3 course against Roger Tydeman and John Ross. Richard, a PGA professional, helped me on some holes, eight holes comes to mind, but my birdie on the 9th put the final nail in our opponents' coffin and victory was ours.

I know I may have disappointed many of you by cutting short details of my holiday in Guernsey in last month's edition but hopefully news of my holiday in the Isle of Wight during September will compensate. The weather was excellent, I wore shorts and we walked the coastal paths, the other part of the we being 'her indoors'. We played crazy golf, ate, drank and cruised home on the Wight ferry.

Ten young assistant green-

Assistant Profile

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

With a reputation for following indie rock'n'roll bands such as The Killers and Kasabian, it may be a surprise to some that his claim to fame is actually appearing in a magazine called ...Greenkeeper International!

Name: Daniel Simpson
Age: 24
Club: Rockcliffe Hall
Position: Qualified Assistant



- 1. How long have you been greenkeeping?**
Five and a half years
- 2. What was it about the career that attracted you?**
Involved in golf and working outside
- 3. If you weren't a greenkeeper what do you think you'd be?**
Teaching professional golf
- 4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?**
Hand cutting greens to give a great aesthetic value.
- 5. Which task do you least enjoy doing and why?**
Divoting and sowing fairways as I'm useless at it!
- 6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot?**
A promotion
- 7. Hobbies?** Playing golf
- 8. Favourite Band?**
Kings of Leon, The Killers, Kasabian and The Beatles
- 9. Which team do you support (football or otherwise)?**
Newcastle United
- 10. What is your claim to fame?** Appearing in Greenkeeper International!