

Congratulations to Gavin Moore, from Launceston Golf Club who has earned himself a place in the national final of the Toro student of the year 2010. On behalf of the section I would like to wish Gavin every success in the finals at Aldwark Manor in September.

Steve Hasell, Cannington College Lecturer/Programme Manager, is to retire after 37 years. Steve will be a familiar face to most Greenkeepers throughout the South West and beyond. Anyone who has attended Cannington on a training course or as a student from NVQ to HE level courses would have been taught by Steve who specialised in Mechanisation.

Steve also spent many hours organising the Greenkeeping training as Programme Manager. Anyone who has met or been taught by Steve has known of his passion and enthusiasm for education and what a fantastic character he is, once met, never forgotten! I had the privilege of studying under and later working alongside Steve at Cannington and I would personally like to congratulate him on all he has done for Greenkeeping Education. If it wasn't for Steve, Greenkeeping courses may well have been lost at Cannington College! I know Steve would like to think he has had a positive impact on his past students and would like to thank them for being so attentive in Class (well mostly!) and wishes them all the best for their future. From the Section, we would like to wish Steve every happiness in his well-earned retirement.

Catch up with you all soon,
George Pitts



South West

What a great week that was, not sure that Paul Casey would agree, I'm not sure that Lee Westwood had the time of his life and I'm pretty sure that Tiger Woods was hoping for a little more... However, for the greenkeepers that were apart of the BIGGA Support team that really was a great week. Just recently I was fortunate enough to be a part of the 2010

Open at St Andrews.

This month I want to tell you about my time at The Open. Most people arrived on the Wednesday which was of course the main practice day, those that wanted to go and have a look around the Old Course, St Andrews could do so. This is when I realised that I was totally unprepared for the weather conditions in "sunny" Scotland, I still don't understand why I thought it was a good idea to leave my waterproofs behind! But anyway, I was walking around one of the greatest places in golfing history, I was not going to let the weather ruin this, just wished that some of the golfers were as brave. By the time we were ready to enjoy watching some of the big names play their practice round the weather changed all of this. However, I managed to find my way to the driving range, I was like a little kid in a candy shop, watching the pros "smash" balls for fun, however, I did have to laugh when I witnessed Sir Nick Faldo thin one!

That evening we had our pre event meeting and we were given our matches for the Thursday. My first group for the Thursday was with Todd Hamilton, the 2004 Champion. For me, this was rather a quiet morning, it wasn't until the 11th hole, a testing par 3 that I was called into action.

I had to wait to rake the bunker while the match putted out, by this time John Daly and his group were standing on the tee, no pressure I thought, I'll just have to hold him up, it's only the big John Daly and he only had a few thousand people watching...

As I had an early tee time, this meant I had most of the afternoon to kill, so returned to the driving range, this time it was even better, Tiger Woods turned up, I was stood about 10 metres away from him, watching him hit balls for about 30 minutes, and still not even sure he noticed me, probably because I'm not blonde with a nice cleavage.

Friday was the day play was delayed, I happened to be at the furthest point away from the clubhouse, which was not fun! I was grouped with an amateur on the Friday, he was playing really well, -1 thru 11 holes, looking like he may make the

cut, however, play restarted and he never looked like the same player and unfortunately started to drop shots. A real shame, I'm sure he will be back to play again one day.

The Saturday was rather uneventful, being paired with two Americans who didn't seem to care that we were even around and after raking four bunkers for one of the players... never mind, that's just the way some people are I guess.

The Sunday was the best day, this time I was with Ricky Fowler and Matt Kucher, two of golfers at their finest. Without being rude, I'd never heard of Ricky Fowler before, people reassured me that he was the next big thing and everyone in the US loved him. Dressed in all orange to represent his uni colours.

Watching him play was amazing, his ball striking was so pure, I don't even recall him missing a green on the front 9. I know that he didn't go in any bunkers all week.

I would like to thank everyone who attended The Open. Being with such a great bunch of people for the week was fantastic.

To more "real life" matters now then I guess. The South West Section Golf Management competition was recently played, sponsored by Scott's Turf Professional. Held at Marlborough GC, which I hear was in fantastic condition! The overall winners were Chipping Sodbury GC, scoring 86 points, well done JK. Second was Saltford GC with 81 points and third was Chippenham GC club with 78 points. Nearest the pin was won by M Horler and the longest drive went to Gwen Spear.

Thank you everyone who attended this event, I trust you all had a wonderful time.

Just another reminder guys that the South West Section has its own Facebook page. This was set up by Jamie Acton, and it is already becoming a big success. I encourage all of you that are on Facebook to check this out, and if you're not on Facebook, its time you logged on.

Hope to see you all very soon. As always keep in contact, it's great to hear from everyone one of you.

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Assistant Profile

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

This is not the first time that 'Sheeno' has been featured in a magazine. This pool-playing poet once had a poem published! He also follows the Blue half of Glasgow...

Name: Stephen Sheehan
Age: 24
Club: East Kilbride
Position: Assistant
Nickname: Sheeno



1. How long have you been greenkeeping?
Five and a half years.

2. What was it about the career that attracted you? Like working outdoors.

3. If you weren't a greenkeeper what do you think you'd be?
A car mechanic.

4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why? Cutting rough or raking bunkers on a summer's day.

5. Which task do you least enjoy doing and why?
Hollowcoring! Millions of cores feels like it's never going to end.

6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot?
There should be a rule banning members from playing before 8am.

7. Hobbies? Pool, snooker, watching footy

8. Favourite Band? Kenny Rodgers

9. Which team do you support? Glasgow Rangers

10. What is your claim to fame?
Once had a poem published in a magazine.