

## 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



### East

Well the weather has certainly improved and the hard graft begins. The last couple of weeks has brought us a flush of growth to deal with at long last. That's the story on the links anyway, but no doubt you fellas inland have been hard at it for longer than that.

Hopefully you will have received your entry forms from our hardworking Secretary, Stuart Ferguson. The Willie Woods Tournament at Mortonhall Golf Club on August 9 should be a cracking day. One remembers being there for an Autumn Tournament years ago and if anyone can come up with the proper year I would be grateful if they would let me know.

The Braids Golf Club will hold the Autumn Tournament on Wednesday, September 14. Can't ever remember playing a BIGGA event there before, so looking forward to it with anticipation.

Our Norrie Wytock team is captained by Alastair Holmes, Seahouses; Grant Moran, Mortonhall; Philip Butler, Murrayfield, and Ryan McCulloch, Goswick. Remember guys we won it last year so NO PRESURE. But bring it home.

There are other areas for your attention at the bottom of the entry form, please let us know if you are interested?

Remember for all correspondence on events, contact: S. Ferguson (Secretary), 50 Easter Road, Shotts, North Lanarkshire, ML7 4AS [stuferg@btinternet.com](mailto:stuferg@btinternet.com)

For any any interesting comments you may wish to make, email [s.crawford@live.co.uk](mailto:s.crawford@live.co.uk)

Lastly, thank you to Shaun Cunningham for the text, it was gratefully received, I look forward to my large rum. Don't burn Samaras's shirt yet!

Have a good summer  
Yours in golf  
Stewart Crawford



### Central

All the best to the Carnoustie crowd who will have hosted the Ricoh Women's British Open by the time you read this, and also to the teams at Fairmont and Gleneagles, who shortly have the Scottish Seniors' and Johnnie Walker tournament respectively.

We are fortunate to be in an area where so many large events are staged.

The next event to look forward to is the Autumn outing at Kingsbarns on Tuesday, September 14 and entry forms will be emailed out those I have email address for or can be found on the website:

[www.biggacentralsection.org.uk](http://www.biggacentralsection.org.uk)

This may well be over subscribed and if this is the case then there will be some type of selection criteria which the committee shall decide upon at their meeting in the first week of August and which will be explained on the entry form.

Also on the website will be news of the next few educational events and the AGM. The Pairs' competition has reached the knockout stages and has proven very popular with those who entered.

Down in Leven, Kevin Webster's wife, Karen, gave birth to a daughter, Grace Catherine, Kevin has just endured the first sleepless night.

Gordon Moir



### West

Sorry for not submitting something last month but the only item to be included was the Spring outing held at Cowglen Golf Club on May 19, which surprisingly experienced a lovely sunny day unlike many of the other days in that month. The course was in excellent condition for the time of year after all the difficulties and for that I would thank Michael Slack and his team for their efforts and the council for allowing the Section to play the course. The results were as follows: Scratch Prize A. Reid, Williamwood, 74, First Class. 1. D. Mackintosh, Cathkin Braes, 32pts; 2. J. Brown, Bearsden, 31pts; 3. G. Bruen, Williamwood, 30pts. Second Class. 1. M. Slack, Cowglen, 34pts; 2. B. Sommerville, Helensburgh, 27 pts (bih); 3. D. McBride, Vale of Leven, 27pts. Third Class. 1. D. Reid, Lenzie, 32pts; 2. C. Boyd, Helensburgh, 15pts; 3. S. Reid, East Kilbride, 14pts. Apprentice prize A. Orr, 27pts, Trade Prize, as usual, D. Duthie, Aitkens.

The only disappointing issue from the day was a lack of numbers with 22 in attendance unlike our normal amount of 35-40. So where were all you guys and what are you up to? Is the cost too much or are we having to take days off to attend? I would appreciate if members could contact me or any Section committee member to discover reasons for the absence.

A wee match has been arranged for the North of the river verses the South which I will report on at a later stage but the intention was to contact a few people who haven't been attending things over the last years with the idea of socialising

and get together for a chat about different aspects. If you wish to be involved then give me a call on 07790823914 or contact Gerry Bruen on the blog and we can include you.

The Scottish National Tournament was held at the Duke's course in June and this had an excellent turn out of 70, to play a reformed course which proved to be a great test of golf. Congratulations to Derek Robson and his staff, and thanks also to the in-house staff, along with the administrative staff, for all their assistance in helping to make a successful day.

As usual Peter Boyd organised everything in a first class manner with the assistance of Andy O'Hara, the Vice Chairman. I am much obliged to both of them for all their work.

Finally if anyone has anything to say give me a call on 0141-942-5554 or 07790823914 or e-mail me on [stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com](mailto:stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com) I hope everyone as a good remainder to the season and eagerly await your calls.

Stuart Taylor

## Northern Region



### Northern

Hi everyone hope you are all well and enjoying the prolonged hot spell. Sadly in our part of the country the few showers we are getting are cancelled out by the drying winds. On June 22 we held our President's Day, at Moortown GC. The Section would like to thank the club for a great day, and Steve and his team for a great but challenging course. Winners on the day were as follows, President's Trophy. S. Mason, 35pts. Div 1. 1. N.

Coultish; 2. A. Court; 3. T. Gerard. Div 2. 1. A. Holroyde; 2. B. Knowles Jackson; 3. D. Campbell, Div 3. 1. E. Newsham; 2. K. Christie; 3. J. Bryson. Trade. M. Brear. N/P.D. Collins.

As usual a big thank you to the sponsor, Bob Wilde Grass Machinery. The Section's best wishes go to our President who is recovering after an operation on his hand. Get well soon, Dennis.

At our last Section meeting we discussed the possibility of a trip to Wembley Stadium, to get an idea of numbers. If you are interested please get in touch with a committee member.

Our next golf event is Invitation day at Bingley St. Ives GC, on August 31, Cost is £20 per person. Please get in touch early to book your place. That's all for this month, any news or gossip please get in touch, Frank Stewart 72 West Park Grove, Roundhay, LS8 2DY. Mob: 07947401278. email frankstewart3@hotmail.co.uk.

Frank Stewart



### North East

Well just checked the Rigby Taylor wall calendar at work and I see the first weekend in August is my last one EVER. Yes it's that time in my life when I have been put out to grass. Not my choice as I would have preferred to carry on working for a couple years more but the powers-that-be declined my services. So after 41 years in greenkeeping what next? Decisions, decisions. Shall I just trot off into the fields, or what? I don't think I could do that, as I need to be doing something in greenkeeping. It's such a brilliant profession, plenty of fresh air, meeting people, listening to the members moaning on... God I will miss all of those.

Looking back to 1970 when I started under the guidance of Steve Pope. What a privilege that was. Many others, as well as me, did ok between us over the forthcoming years and I am sure all of those people will agree with me that Steve was what we call a one off. We can tell lots of stories.

For the past 29 years I have been the Secretary of the North East Section of the then BGGA and BIGGA.

One of my claims to fame was

when I was appointed Chairman of BGGA in 1985 and to be involved with that historic meeting at Hagg's Castle with BGGA, EIGGA and SIGGA to form what we have now. It took two years, but it was well worth the wait in the end.

Another claim to fame I was lucky enough to enjoy was to be chosen, along with nine other greenkeepers from around the country, to attend the first Bernhard's trip, away to Vancouver.. So when you see that advert in Greenkeeper International, go for it.

Think that's all I am going to say, other than I expect to see quite a few of you at BTME in January and that I am still carrying on as the Secretary of the North East Section.

Whoops nearly forgot. If anybody wants a hard working retired greenkeeper in the future on a part time basis, or whatever, just give me a ring or email me.

I always said that if I received no news I would write about myself! So come on lads, you must have something to tell me even if it's winter projects, someone getting married, or moving on,. The summer months are always the hardest to write about.

There was one thing I could have written about last month and that was about Russ Black. For those of you who know him as he know longer works at Westerhope Golf Club. Unfortunately for him, and a couple of other staff, they were paid by Newcastle City Council and they needed to reduce the staff by one. So now Russ works in one of the City parks on bowling greens etc. You will, however, still see him at Section outings.

Finally, let's see a lot more people turn up for the Autumn comp at Longhirst Hall, on September 21. This venue was chosen in the honour of Stuart Wilson, Deputy Head, who tragically lost his life last year.

Jimmy Richardson



### Sheffield

We reach August, and near the end of another season. As I write these notes I can safely say that the weather for once has been on our side this year and long may it continue (fingers

crossed I have not placed a jinx by saying this).

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone concerned at Roundwood GC for what was a fantastic day at our Annual competition. I would like to say a special thanks to Ryan and his staff for producing a very good and difficult course. It was a credit to them all. I would also like to thank our sponsor, Mansfield Sand, for once again supporting the Section. Thankfully we managed a good turnout and I'm sure everyone had a great day. The results are as follows (Andy Unwin didn't do the countback).

Best gross A. Unwin, 78, (on Countback); Best nett D. Chappell, 78/69; 2. D. Brownlow, 78/70; A. Riley, 89/70. Trade R. Latham. Nearest the Pin Jamie Hobson, 10ft 13 inches (Yes, this is what he wrote for anyone who is puzzled)

Well done to all our winners and to everyone who played.

Unfortunately, now for a little bad news. We had to cancel our cricket match against Rigby Taylor due to poor numbers once again. I must thank Mike Brear for all his hard work in organising the day and also apologise to him on behalf of the Section. I believe it would have been a fantastic day if people had attended.

Our annual match against the Northern Section will have taken place in July and the results will be posted in next month's magazine.

Finally, I can announce we have our own facebook page. This will be updated with upcoming events and photos from events. Members can also go on and chat about all things greenkeeping. Find us at BIGGA Sheffield Section.

I am also on the final stages of completing a Sheffield Section website. I'm sure this will become a valuable tool to many members in our Section. More information will be posted in next month's magazine.

Have a good August and enjoy the sun.

James Stevens  
jimthegreenkeeper@hotmail.com  
07738719614

## Midland Region



### East Midlands

Sitting in a hotel room I've just realised it's deadline day for the magazine Section notes, so I'm going straight into things this month so there will be no waffling from me, "Hooray!" I hear you all cry!

Results from our Summer. First, the event was played at Cavendish GC and the course was in fantastic condition (I would say that wouldn't II!). Amazingly the rain also held off for the day so we were all truly blessed. Nearest the Pin prizes went to Andy Church, for the Trade bragging rights, and to Derek McJannett, for the Greenkeepers, Longest Drive went to Andy Lane, for the Trade, and Lee Wenlock, for the Greenkeepers.

The main prizes went to the "BIGGA boys" in the Trade section with Scott MacCallum taking third, and John Pemberton, newly-retired, taking first place. Thanks go to Andy Church for splitting them up. In Cat 2. Chris Weir and Greg Skinner took third and second with a card play off, and Pete Smith (yep, me again) ran out winner.

Please note that I have not put scores in for trade and cat 2 for fear off embarrassing all! Cat 1 winner was Derek McJannett, with Andy De Wet narrowly missing out by way of card play off, both scoring a fine 36 pts; third went to Lee Wenlock with 34pts.

As always thanks go to our sponsor for the day, these were Countrywide, Ultra soils, Campey Turfcare, Scotts and Tacit, without the continued support of our sponsors these events wouldn't be the success that they are. Thank you to all involved.

With the best combined scores from our Spring and Summer comps our BIGGA National Championship, sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota, representatives will be previous National Champ Derek McJannett and, just to make up the numbers, yours truly!

The Headland Pairs competition continues and in the next update I should be able to announce quarter finalists,





# Around The Green

we will also be able to publish results from our first par-3 competition and summer BBQ. Here's hoping there're none of those long par-3's I love so much!

Regards to all  
Pete Smith



## Midland

Well, I sit at my computer each evening trolling through emails hoping that one day someone will send me a message which I can report within our notes. It's a bit like specimen coarse fishing, you often blank. However, unlike our , a 10lb+ Barbel, 5lb+ Chub or 25lb+ Carp will serve as wonderful memories and fuel many a tale of the one that didn't get away. Yes, yet again no one has any news for this month it seems. Reminds me of the 50s BBC news programme, "Good evening, there is no news this evening, so here's a little light music".

Please throw a man a bone, anything, births, marriages, retirements, promotions, educational achievement. My email address: sean.mcdade@homecall.co.uk bitte, bitte, takk fyrr.

Now away from the German and Icelandic, we have now a little light music in the form of our ever kind sponsor of this month's calendar page. Such being our long standing supporter of the Section and very dear friend, Nigel Tyler, and his kind company, Sherriff Amenity. Nigel is very knowledgeable within his field of pesticides, fertilisers, dressing etc. and from an unbiased personal view can be relied upon to give good advice for your requirements of such. Nigel's phone number: 07989 548 058, or visit Sherriff's website:

[www.sherriffamenity.com](http://www.sherriffamenity.com)

Looking forward to your emails.

The newsbarren.

Sean McDade.

## South East Region



### East Anglia

Our rather small but perfectly formed band of brothers (40 in total), descended upon Great Yarmouth and Caister Golf Club in the middle of June, in the middle of a drought. Guess what, the fairways were a lush yellow colour – a proper links course, lovely. Well done Simon Clark, Head Greenkeeper and his team.

In those conditions, club distance goes out of the window and you actually have to think! Well some of you did, they are as follows:

0 – 9 Handicap - there were only six of them, so only two prizes: 1. Graham Hurran 37pts, 2 Rob Boyce 34pts;

10 – 18 Handicap – not many again, same number of prizes: 1. Toni Thacker 37pts; 2. Richard Hurn 30pts; 19 – 28 Handicap – Real Golfers: 1 Neville Rowlandson 33pts, 2 Martin Mison 30pts, 3 "The Maestro" Ian Willett 28pts.

The winner of the Greenkeeper and Captain's Shield was Neville Rowlandson and Frank Griffins – 71pts.

Trade & Guest: 1 Frank Griffins 38pts, 2, Clive Pinnock 36pts; Nearest the Pin: 7th Steve Coonan, 12h Chris Scott;

Nearest the Pin in Two. Graham Hurren; Longest Drive. Mark Keysell; Uncle Colin was presented with the Loo Seat, after his ball disappeared down a rabbit hole. Shame it didn't have the flag in it!

Thank you Gt Yarmouth & Caister for a good day – the course and catering were lovely.

The main sponsor of the day was Toro - the best halfway house yet! Our other loyal supporters were Aitkens, Bartram Mowers, Ransomes Jacobsen, Tacit, Tomlinson Groundcare, Ernest Doe and Prime Irrigation.

Nearly 50 years ago, my old boss said "To create a good course may have to be the slow and laborious task of years. To destroy a course can be the thoughtless act of a Greens' Committee in a single day. Nothing has changed. (Keep smiling.)

Mick Lathrope



## Kent

Not too much to report this month chaps, so I'll be brief.

Our Summer Pairs' Knockout is now in full swing with half of the games being played at the time of writing. I shall give a quick synopsis of the game between myself and Darren Child versus Darren Burton and Lee Campeney at the immaculate North Foreland Golf Club. It's fair to say that the low handicapped golfer on each side did much of the donkey work in making this match such a close fought affair. Ultimately, my partner's back giving way after carrying me for so long, leaving Lee to hole his putt on the final hole ensuring a very close victory of 1 up. A fantastic game guys at your superb venue. Many thanks and good luck for the remaining rounds.

If any of you have any news or reports for me then please contact me or Kev with the info you would like placed in this column. Also, we are compiling a fixture list for 2013 now, so if you would like to host an event then, again, please let us know.

Best of British

Rob Holland

[www.kentgreenkeepers.com](http://www.kentgreenkeepers.com)



## Surrey

Monday, July 4. Ahoy landlubbers. I'd like to say I'm glad to be back on terra firma but after 23 nights cruising the Eastern Med, I'm not. It's the sailor's life for me, from Dover to Istanbul and many other ports in between. Her indoors, me plus 815 other intrepid seafarers enjoyed sun, food, and entertainment on board the good ship 'Black Watch'. Our next cruise? Well who knows, perhaps the world.

So what has happened in Surrey since my departure with Fred Olsen and Captains' Pugwash and Birdseye? Well, Surrey Downs GC and the Cresta Cup happened on June 8. Paul Weston, that well

known once keeper of the first 'Aqua Toro Cushman', missed the day having not received the email update showing the revised date. His wife, Doreen, has insisted that they must now have a computer.

Commiserations to Paul but congratulations to winner, Steve Alabaster, Richard Bacon, runner up, and Ron Christie, who followed up the rear. Jim Russell, yes the one with the long shorts, hit the Longest Drive and Richard Bacon, yes him again, got Nearest the Pin. I am told that the course, the food and the weather were all excellent.

I have just heard the news that the sheds at Surrey Downs GC have burnt down and to Tony Kyle, Course Manager, I send my hopes that he will soon receive replacement equipment.

Finally, to Lynne Gray and her second child, Connor, 8lb 2ozs, I, on your behalf, wish them well and to Martin, Deputy at Bramley GC, the proud father, I wish him a pay rise, a broken alarm clock, the necessary dexterity to change nappies and the ability to refrain from whatever he has done in the past and take up a less expensive hobby.

Brian Willmott



## London

Well, we have finally had the rain need in June that was required by all, and now (beginning of July) the sun is shining and we have ideal conditions for golf course manicuring.

I had the pleasure of entertaining a few Course Managers from the London Section at my club the other day and it was a most enjoyable experience to talk to others, share ideas and points of view. May I make this suggestion to all to pop in on one's neighbour or pick up the phone and talk shop.

I also played nine holes of golf with Martin Smith, Course Manager at Porters Park. It was very pleasing to say the least, that someone who has been in the industry as long as he still has the enthusiasm, drive and enjoyment for the job as when he started. A true inspiration.

The website is currently being updated and information will be



continually added.

The London Section is looking at running some Chainsaw Courses towards the end of the season and during the winter months, in partnership with a local college, to provide lower cost courses. They would be run on golf courses in the area so that usual scenarios found in the work place can be tackled on the course. If you are interested please contact me so we can see if there is enough interest to make this work.

The next golf day is at Finchley Golf Club, on August 2. Information will be sent out to all email addresses that we have. If you would like to be added to the mailing list then please use the email addresses below.

Any queries, questions or feedback please contact us at: [adamccoll@hotmail.com](mailto:adamccoll@hotmail.com)  
Regards  
Adam McColl



Essex

Well it looks like our prayers have been answered and we have had rain in abundance. The grass has kicked off again and we are back into catch up mode.

Last month our Chairman, Mark Stopps, decided to stand down from the position. The committee and membership of the Section would like to thank him very much for all the hard work that he has done for the Section over his 18 months in office and wish him well for the future.

Our Summer Trophy event, held at Nazeing Golf Club, went off really well, although the weather was not so kind on the day, with a heavy storm working its way through just after play commenced. Luckily the rest of the day was fine, with the sun breaking through and the temperature soaring to dry out even the wettest player.

With the competition split in two, a blind pairs and qualifying for the National later this year, we were treated to a real feast of golf. The course was in fantastic condition and co-owner and Section member, Martin Guy, should be congratulated. He revealed that the staff had

decided, on their own initiative, to work on the Sunday prior to the match, to bring the course up to an even higher standard. On behalf of the Section I wish to thank Martin's team for the hard work they put in.

Results of the Blind Pairs:

1. Andy Pledger, 35pts & Liam Springett, 36pts, - 71pts; 2. Malcolm Smith, 38pts, & Alan Scott, 26pts, - 64pts; 3. Craig Serafin, 30pts, & Larry Pearman, 33pts, - 63pts. Best Overall Greenkeeper and place in the BIGGA National Championship, sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota: Liam Close 44pts.

Best Trade: Steve Bush 33pts. Best Guest: Roy Spong 32pts. Nearest the Pin 2nd hole: Olly Homewood. Nearest the Pin 15th Hole: Glenn Swift.

Quarter Finals Knockout Pairs Competition

The first round must be completed before Thursday, August 18, which is our next golf day. The draw for the next round will take place on that day!

Match 1 - Played at Stoke By Nayland Golf Club. Liam Springett & Liam Close v Dougie Fernie & Paul O'Kane; Match 2 - Played at Three Rivers Golf and Country Club. Barry Mann & Sam Anderson v Ian Wood & Mark Severn; Match 3 - Played at Abridge Golf Club. Richard Hare & Ben Scrivner v Stewart Rogers & Steve Cousins; Match 4 - Played at 'Royal' Orsett Golf Club. Andy Cracknell & Neil Peachy v Andy Darnell & Lee Stephens.

A small team from the Essex Section are making the trip down to Royal St Georges, to work on, The Open Championship Support Team. More from them next month.

Don't forget to send your entry for the next golf day the "Essex Trophy" is at Chelmsford Golf Club, Thursday, August 18. Entry's close on August 10.

If you have anything for inclusion in Greenkeeper International or on the Section's Website [www.essexbigga.co.uk](http://www.essexbigga.co.uk) please contact me on 07764-862.337 or at [essexbigga@talktalk.net](mailto:essexbigga@talktalk.net)

Arnold Phipps-Jones



## South West and South Wales



South Wales

Hello. The sun is shining and we've at last glimpsed some small signs of the flushes of growth we've all been dying to see! Overseeding projects at many of our courses underway with the Poa struggling, a chance to get those Bents and Fescues sewn in to take over in the swards.

In last month's magazine I wrote about us attending Wenvoe Castle to support Mark Wilshire in his new role of Head Greenkeeper what I failed to mention was his predecessor Ty Garland. Ty Garland, 38 years of service most of which as Head Greenkeeper, has come to the generous age of retirement. During his time at Wenvoe Castle he managed his team to a number of County, Regional and National events the highlight of which the Welsh Professionals Classic in late 70's. Ty a true greenkeeping gentleman has not hung up his boots, strimmers and hole cutting scissors just yet he is staying with Wenvoe supporting Mark through the summer in the masses of hectares of land cut as rough at the golf club. The South Wales Section wish you all the best in your retirement and always stay in touch.

The Rigby Taylor Matchplay Knock out round was held at Neath Golf Club. The rain threatened but thankfully came to nothing so we could enjoy this excellent Harry Colt designed golf course and thankfully visibility was better than last year. Steve, you and your boys deserve a special thank you for setting up the course in great condition and the hospitality show by Neath Golf Club was second to none. Thank you.

Results

1. Glyn-Neath, Steve Chappell & Darryl Jones; 2. Andy Caps, Andy Roach & Huw Morgan; 3. Countrywide, Peter Holmstrom & Clive Moran; 4. Newport GC, Paul Handy & Mark Anderton

## Assistant Profile

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

**Name:** Lewis Pattinson  
**Age:** 21  
**Club:** De Vere Oulton Hall  
**Position:** Greenkeeper/  
Mechanic  
**Nickname:** Spooner



### 1. How long have you been greenkeeping?

3.5 years

### 2. What was it about the career that attracted you?

Job satisfaction in presenting the golf course.

### 3. If you weren't a greenkeeper what do you think you'd be?

I'd planned to be a paratrooper.

### 4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?

Cutting the greens and maintenance.

### 5. Which task do you least enjoy doing and why?

Nothing really, I appreciate all jobs need to be done to the best standard.

### 6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot?

A positive attitude and personal aspiration will result in reward.

### 7. Hobbies?

Going to the gym, rugby league, swimming & running

### 8. Favourite Band?

Swedish House Mafia.

### 9. Which team do you support (football or otherwise)?

Sunderland

### 10. What is your claim to fame?

I once won the Northern England bonnie baby competition.



# Around The Green

All four Pairs now qualify for the finals to be held at Green Meadow Golf Club in late October.

I know so far I have mentioned Celtic Manor and Jim McKenzie lots and lots of times but after the announcement that Jim was to be Honoured in the Queens Birthday Honours list is outstanding news for our Section and Region and our industry. Congratulations Jim from all of us in the South Wales Section.

Peter Holmstrom



## South West

Wednesday June 8, Section Captain, Wayne Vincent, took his team down to Long Ashton GC for our annual fixture against the Secretaries. With tough playing conditions on brilliant golf course (thanks to James Braithwaite and his guys!) we came away winning 4&2. Looks like Wayne is back to his winning ways again this year... Being partnered with Lewis Pisto, we somehow found ourselves 3 down after 3, and thinking this was going to be a long afternoon, but Lewis found his games face and this soon changed as we won the next 3 and soon after we were 1 up. I'd like to take this time to thank playing opponents Jim Cunning and Mike Wake for an entertaining afternoon and a competitive match!

Also this past month the Section visited Knowle GC. This was our Section's Summer tournament. With true golfing weather, on a well presented golf course, where it's so easy to forget where you actually are. Driving around the houses to get there, literally! Thanks to Mike Sage and his guys for preparing the course in such great condition for us!

Competition prizes (playing in Medal format) - Nearest the Pin at 6, Nick Lewis. Nearest the Pin at 12, Richard Louisson. Overall winners, 3. Richard Louisson, nett 69 (on countback from Roger Neale), 2. Craig Swines, nett 68 and this year's winner, Simon Kew, nett 68 (also on countback).

This is a very special event to our Section as we also invite the winner to represent our Section at the BIGGA National

Championship sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota, playing at West Lancashire GC. On behalf of the Section I would like to wish Simon the very best.

On a more personal note, I've recently had my first experience in London (Well, since I last went 20 years ago). What a crazy place London is! Being from the Cotswolds a trip to the big city is very much out of my comfort zone...Arriving at Paddington Station and being hit by hundreds of people, thousands maybe. I soon dragged myself together and fitted right at home as I pushed passed people, hitting them with my luggage and on to the underground. Ummmm, what's that all about?

There was a reason why I visited London, It's not a hobby of mine just to sit on trains, I had the pleasure of going to the Hard Rock Calling Festival in Hyde Park.

I would like to thank our patronage partners for all of their support for 2011, Ecosol, Irritech Limited, Countrywide, British Seed House, Headland, Avoncrop, Martyn Lane Golf Signs. Your support is very much appreciated by the whole Section.

Remember that we also have our own South West Section facebook page, proving to be very useful. However, for it grow more of you have to become involved. If you are not a member of the page, it's time you were, ask for the link and I'll happily forward it to you.

See you all very soon,  
adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk  
07732503855



## South Coast

Hi all,

I think at last we are back to a typical summer easily described as changeable, even Britain's sunshine coast is experiencing some rain and strong winds.

Last month, the Section played the annual match against the Secretaries. This year it was held at Knighton Heath Golf Club in what is a fiercely fought battle for the coveted Course Care Cup. In true fashion the result went to the wire and ended in a half, which

meant the Greenkeepers retain the cup, well done all who took part. The course was in superb condition, well done to Roger and his team. Thanks also to Course Care for the on-going support in sponsoring the day it has become a firm favourite in the Section.

Mid June the newly sponsored Course Management Trophy was played for at Stoneham Golf Club, with 15 teams competing for prizes of course equipment and a place in a National Final.

It was a great day, particularly for the early starters who avoided the rain on a superbly presented course. Well done, Vince and his team. Considering it was a Monday you had worked miracles. Thanks to Tacit, as the new sponsor, and long may it continue. Lastly, thanks to Jane, our RA, for spending the whole day in the clubhouse, entertaining and sorting out the cards. The winning team was led by Dave Murdoch, from Liphook Golf Club, with a great score of 85 pts.

As I write this we are approaching the Open Championship week followed by our Summer Invitation competition at Brokenhurst Manor, the results of which will be in next month's article.

Here at Barton the season is in full swing, Ladies', Men's and Vets' Captain's Days, all in one week, Mixed Open followed by Invitation Day, let alone the continual societies. It's a wonder we get anything done on the course. Captain's Day is an event I struggle to get my head round. He invites the ladies to play 18 holes on our third loop of 9, so they are not left out! Can you imagine the ladies inviting the men to play on their day. The mere sight of men on the course is reported to the Secretary on a Tuesday. Anyway I must get on. John Deere have left a compact tractor on demo for a few days so I thought I would get some air in the greens, Vets' medal tomorrow "perfect"

Tony Gadd



## Devon and Cornwall

Our Summer meeting this year was held at Dartmouth Golf and Country Club. The golf match was contested between Devon Greenkeepers and Cornish Greenkeepers for the "Devon v Cornwall BIGGA Trophy". The format was 4BBB Matchplay and for the third year running the Cornish team came out on top with a 5.5 to 2.5 victory. There were individual prizes available too, with the best Pair Nett score going to Mike Ellis and Lloyd Overy, Lakeview, Rob Cook, Bowood, and Richard Japes, Sports Metals, came in second and Mike Bush, St Mellion, and David Daw, Porthpean, were in third place overall. Nearest the Pin on the 5th went to Mike Bush and on the 18th it went to James Sheehan, Truro. The Longest Drive prizes went to Richard Japes on the 8th and Mike Bush on the 16th. Congratulations to all the prize winners and a huge thank you our sponsors for the day, "Sports Metals" and "Symbio" for supplying the prizes. The Cornish Captain, Anthony James "Jacko", Killiow, received the BIGGA Trophy on behalf of the Cornish team. Congratulations to all those who took part from both teams.

Total attendance for the day was approximately 60 and those who did not take part in the golf, a course walk, led by Course Manager, Terry Farkins was enjoyed. The weather played ball after a very wet start and Terry took the course walkers around the course and facilities. Many thanks to Terry and all the Green staff for a very professional and fantastically presented golf course.

After the course walk and golf, all attendees enjoyed a BBQ on the terrace overlooking the course and this was followed by the prize giving. A big thank you to all the committee for the smooth running of the day and many thanks to Dartmouth G&CC for their kind and professional hospitality throughout the whole day.

Congratulations to Mike Bush MG for achieving his "Master Greenkeeper" award. Mike is

## Section Notes

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

Course Manager at St Mellion and has worked extremely hard to further his career over the years. Mike is the first to achieve the MG status in our Section and has even been on local BBC News being interviewed on the course. So good PR for the industry! Well done Bushy, and congratulations from the whole Section.

News from Duchy College. Kingston Maurward College (Dorset) and Duchy College have made a strategic decision to work together. This is good news for greenkeepers in the region. Kingston Maurward College will work under the GTC Quality Approved Centre status of Duchy College. Together the colleges will offer progression in greenkeeper training from Level 2 to Level 4. The greenkeeping team at Kingston Maurward will be headed by Alan Jacobsen, a greenkeeper who has recently moved to the Dorset College from Oatridge College.

NVQ 4 Amenity Horticulture Management (Sports Turf). Congratulations to Mike Bush, St Mellion Hotel, Golf and Country Club; Mark Campbell, Bude and North Cornwall Golf Club; Victor Dyer, Thurlestone Golf Club, Graeme Gallimore, Launceston Golf Club, and John Scott, St Mellion Hotel, Golf and Country Club, for being the first candidates to achieve the NVQ 4 Sports Turf through Duchy College from Devon and Cornwall.

Their success in establishing the NVQ 4 Sports Turf allows other greenkeepers from the area to further progress their careers.

Their success also marks the amazing achievement of approaching 200 greenkeepers from Devon and Cornwall who have completed NVQ/Work Based Diplomas since March 2004. Duchy College achieved its GTC Approved Training Provider status in May 2006. Well done to each of these and to their Club, employers and to the Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers who have contributed to their training and assessment?

Ongoing trade support. Again the trade has been generous this year in its support to the college through the provision of posters, seed samples, catalogues, publications, etc. I am a little embarrassed not to have formally thanked the individual

companies before as many have supported the college for a number of years to the great benefit of the students. I am also a little cautious at listing these for fear of missing someone out but here goes. John Palfrey who has worked hard for a number of years to collate materials from Scotts, Barenburg, Rigby Taylor, Bayer. Thanks also to Barenburg and Johnsons (Phil Seedhouse and Dave Chamings) for the seed samples.

Ron Skinner, George Pitts  
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Bigga Devon & Cornwall  
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gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com

## **BIGGA welcomes the following new members**

### **Scotland**

Stephen Barber, East Section  
Richard Bull, West Section  
Jack Fairbairn, North Section  
David Hay, Central Section  
Mark Hills, Central Section  
Dennis Grant, North Section  
Paul McAulay, West Section  
John McMurchie, East Section

### **Northern Region**

Neil Barrett, Northern Section  
Daniel Clarke, North West Section  
Aidan Coates, Cleveland Section  
Victor Cox, North East Section  
Ben Goodchild, North West Section  
Robert Hepworth, Northern Section  
James Lee, Sheffield Section  
Andrew Noon, North Wales Section  
Neil White, North West Section  
Benjamin Williams, North Wales Section

### **Midland Region**

Daniel Anstiss, Berks/Bucks & Oxon Section  
Adam Burley, Midland Section  
James Fox, Midland Section  
Geoff Gibbons, East Midland Section  
Anton Holliday, Midland Section  
Darren Howes, Berks/Bucks & Oxon Section  
David Ingleton, East of England Section  
Sarah Lashbrooke, East Midland Section  
Jason Molesworth, Midland Section  
Craig Tatton, East Midland Section  
John Whitehouse, BB&O  
Craig Wyatt, Midland Section

### **South East Region**

Sam Bethell, Surrey Section  
Joe Clarke, Surrey Section  
Jack Cleaver, Surrey Section  
Brian Eggleton, London Section  
Charles Lance, Sussex Section  
Wesley Lenihan, Sussex Section  
George Morley, Sussex Section  
Kane Stone, London Section

### **South West/South Wales Region**

Matthew Clark, South Coast Section  
Richard Hatcher, South Wales Section  
Iain Moore, South West Section  
Edward Read, South West Section  
Neil Scott, South West Section  
Amy Thomas, South Coast Section

### **Overseas**

Daniel Green, Thailand  
Zhiheng Wang, China

**For more listings, log in to the Members' Area of the BIGGA Website**



**Jim Croxton**  
Chief Executive

**I must begin by thanking all of the BIGGA members, supporters and friends for all the kind wishes that I have received in my first few weeks in the Chief Executive's office. Many of you have offered support, assistance and advice for which I am very grateful, but be warned, I will be taking you up on your offers!**

In my first few weeks I have had the chance to meet many members, representatives of the trade and other golfing bodies and the message has been consistent and clear: There is a great deal of warmth and respect for the Association and its members and there is strong support for our ambition to continue to improve the quality of course presentation and condition which by extension will improve the quality of overall golfing experience that is enjoyed by the nation's nearly four million regular players. Our challenge is to harness that support so that all of us are working together in a focused way.

## **I believed I was joining a fantastic industry and the events of the last couple of months have proved me right**

I believed I was joining a fantastic industry and the events of the last couple of months have proved me right, I feel privileged to have been given the opportunity. Witnessing the dedication and professionalism of the BIGGA Support Team at the recent Open Championship gave me an insight in to how much we have to be proud of as an Association. The ground work was admirably carried out by Royal St George's Head Greenkeeper Graham Royden and his team who provided a course in magnificent condition. The commitment of the 56-strong team of highly qualified volunteers to provide greenkeeping support in testing weather did BIGGA proud.

At the conclusion of the Championship the Chairman and I took the opportunity to thank and congratulate the Support Team. We also gave our commitment that we intend to work tirelessly to raise the awareness and the profile of the excellent job that BIGGA members do up and down the land, day in and day out. This is a big task and to achieve it we need to engage stakeholders at all levels of the game but it also requires the support of all our members. We know what a great job you do for your respective employers, members and visitors and we need you to help us get that message across by continuing to strive for excellence, to represent the profession with pride and to take every opportunity to promote the good work of the industry.

I look forward to meeting many more of you in the weeks and months to come.

**Jim Croxton, BIGGA CEO**