



## Surrey

A belated Happy New Year to all my merry readers, please note merry not many and the same felicitation to all those who have the good sense not to bother. Did you all have a good Christmas? I did, with our now annual cruise to the sunny shores of the North Eastern most of the Channel Islands. We ventured out on Boxing Day to experience the Ventnor midday swim and were amused by the many colourful and gay costumes worn by the brave hearted and the thongs that the more plucky and copious chaps wore on entry into those chilly waters but who on exit were somewhat less so.

The atrocious weather before Christmas meant that my van and I stayed at home for many days and that the Surrey turkey trot was cancelled. Happily Guildford GC were able to fit us in yesterday, January 7, and as I was unavailable, due to a prior engagement, the result was recorded by our ever efficient Secretary and golfer supreme, Ron Christie, so the following is a verbatim report of his comments. The main prize of the day, the nearest the pin, was won by that very same golfer supreme, Ron Christie. Please remember that this is Ron's report not mine and any future slander lawsuit must be directed at him and not yours truly. The longest drive prize meant that Mark Harvey was able to go home and give it to his partner. The runner up team prize went to Tony Kyle, a possible relation to that well known other chap, Lloyd Barnes, Jason O'keefe and Richard Bacon. Score 53.2. The winners - and I hope I have written this down correctly - wore strikingly extravagant and large brimmed headgear? and were, in no particular order of importance, Dave Guy, Peter Marney, Andy Foulds and Andy Hall. Score 52.9. Jim Russell took five off Gary Ogilvie, unfortunately Ron did not say whether this was pence, pounds or a bunch of.

The day commenced with

a bacon roll and coffee or tea if you followed Tony Bremer's preference and then with a shotgun start at ten battle began. Ron said the course was in fantastic condition and praised Matt Lawrence and his team for restoring the greens and fairways after so much extreme weather. The food was also excellent and Clive Osgood was there in his capacity to give the thumbs up and get the curry, lasagne and chilly down. The players had soup halfway round which was very welcome. Many thanks to Guildford GC, its Captain and members.

The AGM followed or preceded, Ron did not say, but no matter as it was dealt with in Surrey's usual swift and efficient manner. Sadly our Chairman, John Ross, has resigned and needs replacing. If you know of any member with John's charisma, organisational abilities and managerial qualities please contact a committee member in writing and in complete confidence and leave the paper recycling to them. John, sorry that was my little joke, Ron really said and I agree wholeheartedly, that you have been an admirable chairman and will be seriously missed by Surrey committee and Surrey members. I hope that your future career will be all you wish for.

Brian Willmott.

## South West and South Wales



### South West

We've done it again, that's right the Section have had another amazing Christmas fixture. On December 16 the guys saw themselves heading to Lansdown Golf Club, home of Jon Jarvis. Let's be honest here, you all know how difficult this winter has been, with the frost in the ground deeper than my fork and the snow at times as deep as my knees, preparing a golf course for 40 odd greenkeepers could make some people nervous. Not Jon and his guys. The course was

looking as good as any other course would have this time of year, a great credit to you all at Lansdown.

The actual day was brilliant - 36 players and eight extras for the evening meal. As always we had our now famous raffle, rising £362, this was divided up and donated to different charities. What a great effort here!

At the Christmas fixture, the raffles so big everyone's a winner, but for the golfing competition there can only be one....3rd place Joe Curtis 39pts, 2nd place Tim Needham 39pts (after countback) and the winner (you may have heard this name here before), Stuart Broom 40pts.

I would now like to thank our Patronage Partners, thanks to them every year we are able to have a sponsored place for four days at Harrogate for a young greenkeeper. This year I would like to congratulate James Wright, from Worlebury Golf Club. Well done James, from the whole Section we very much hope you have a fantastic time!

Arriving in your e-mail inbox very shortly will be this year's fixture list, please make every effort to attend to as many events as you can this year. Your section really needs your support and you also know that you can gain so much more than just a round of golf!

Its joke time, what's the Australian version of LBW??? Lost...Beaten...Walloped!!!!

Remember that we also have our own South West Section facebook page, proving to be very useful, only for it grows as more of you become involved. If you are not a member of the page, its time you were, ask for the link and ill happily forward it to you.

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### South Coast

Hi all.

Hope all is well with every one, and that the start of 2011 has not been as white as the end

## Assistant Profile

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

**Name:** Luke Cordery  
**Age:** 21  
**Club:** Bearwood Lakes Golf Club  
**Position:** Green Staff  
**Nickname:** Lukey Boy



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

4 ½ years

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

Working outdoors

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

Testing computer games

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

Verti-draining because the tractor is fitted with a radio and you get a bit of alone time!

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

Trimming pop-ups. Its always me that has to do it!

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

Extra days holiday.

### 7. Hobbies?

Football, Golf, PS3

### 8. Favourite Band?

Oasis

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

The mighty Royals! (Reading)

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

Colin Montgomerie took the mick out of me for having the first iphone!

### Want to appear as an Assistant Profile?

To receive a questionnaire, email [scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk)