

Section Notes

Please email your notes to
scott@bigga.co.uk
by the 5th
of the month

All the latest news from your Section

Around The Green



Scottish Region



East

The first day of June has come and on reflection May has served up some extraordinary weather. Strong cool winds together with intermittent bouts of rain, have taken their toll on the links. It appears rather benign, with little growth from a month that usually has a flush of green grass.

Four greenkeepers from the Renaissance Course at Archerfield escaped serious injury when a tree was blown down on their car as they were leaving work. I believe there were broken bones sustained but thankfully they survived to tell the story. Good wishes from the East Section goes to them and hopefully a speedy recovery.

No hint of a text of congratulations have been received by me as the mightier Gers (some weeks ago now) sealed another SPL title (three in a row) from Mr Shaun Cunningham. A large rum might do the trick at your wonderful Mortonhall Golf Course (Willie Woods Tournament venue in August) would suffice my rival Old Firm fan.

The Norrie Whittock team will be confirmed next month and hopefully the East Section team will bring the trophy back home once again.

Richard Scott's (Sherriff Amenity) invitation to his Open Day was gratefully received and I, along with a good number of green staff from the East Section, enjoyed a view of fantastic machinery at Musselburgh Racecourse. Congratulations to him and his staff for a very successful day.

A phone call from George Stavert was gratefully received by myself and, yes George, we

look forward to seeing you at the Braid Hills Golf Course in the autumn. Your guests are very welcome on the day as well.

Yours in Golf and Football!

Stewart Crawford

Chairman East Section Scotland



Central

The last education evening before the summer was held in early May where a small number of attendees were treated to a very informative presentation about Turf growing by Adam Pounds, of Tillers Turf. The new Pairs' Competition introduced this year got a healthy support of 16 teams which were split into four mini leagues of four teams. The first two sets of round robin matches should have been played by now and the results posted on the website www.bigga-centralsection.org.uk

We now have Facebook up and running in the Section and interest is slowly building. Leven Links has recruited Craig Berry, who has 'Jamp the dyke' from Lundin, and on Leven staff, Kevin Webster, is about to become a father for the first time and Gary McLaren a grandad. Must be something in the water down that way!

Things coming up are the autumn outing at Kingsbarns, in September and on Monday, October 3 Joe Vargas, of Michigan State University, will be giving a presentation at St Andrews Links. I would urge members who have not already done so to provide us with their email address as this is a much easier way for us to provide you with information going forward.

Congratulations to Section members Gary Douglas, Piperdam, Frank Aherne and Matthew Engwell, both St Andrews,

and also ex members Anke Perplies and Neville Wenhold who all won awards at Elmwood College's prize giving.

Gordon Moir



Ayrshire

Hello to you all, hope you are all well. A false sense of security yet again with the weather! April was the driest in history with sun shining down on us and May has given us a taste of what we are used to - cold winds, heavy rain and dull days..... I'm sure it feels like winter out there! June has started slightly better and I really do hope it keeps up.

It saddened me very much to hear of the passing of such a golfing great in Seve Ballesteros - a great man, the one, the only Seve, at the age of 54. Seve was a true professional and true gentleman. The world has lost a legend and one who will never be forgotten. Three times Open Championship winner he will miss this year's Championship at Royal St George's where, I'm sure, there will be some sort of honour in Seve's name. He will surely be watching over the week's play and I fancy one of Seve's countrymen to rise to the top on the Sunday.

If this year's Championship is as good as it was at St Andrews last year then I'm sure we will all see a spectacular event! I wish all the BIGGA Support Team all the best for the week and hope they enjoy the experience. It really is an honour to be part of it all.

Well that's that for another month, you know what to do, any news, goss, anything... Get in touch!

Cheers.

John Mair

Johnmair982@hotmail.co.uk
07500874449



North

As I write the Section news for July the weather in the North seems to have settled down. There doesn't seem to be any sign of the wet stuff so I would presume that we are all hand watering a lot of areas on the course.

I start with a kind of congratulations to the four greenkeepers who took part in the annual Trades competition that takes place at Hazelhead No.1 Course. George Mitchell has been running the Trade's Team now for a couple of years and together with Fraser Downie, Peterculter GC, Rossco Macrae and Dennis Grant, both Newmachar, came runners up in a very hard fought final. George and Fraser played out of their skins and won their match 4 up. Unfortunately, they hadn't banked on Rossco and Dennis losing their match by 5, which meant that they lost the match by a hole. Never mind lads hopefully you can go one better next year and break that duck under George. Well done, lads!

Congratulations to Derek Green, formerly of Royal Aberdeen, who has managed to land himself the job of Head Greenkeeper at Inverurie GC. On behalf of the Section well done and I'm sure you'll do a good job. Moving to Royal Aberdeen from Kirriemuir is young Mark McLaren. Well done on getting the job, Mark, and with the Walker Cup coming up in September I'm sure you will have a great time in preparing for the tournament. Jim McCormack will miss you greatly, so he said, but you know him better than me!

The Scottish National Tournament will have taken place by the time you read this and hope-

fully the North Section would have had a good turn out with plenty of winners. A report will follow in next month's magazine with all our winners!

Around the time you get the next magazine the Barclays Scottish Open at Castle Stuart will either just be teeing off or have finished. Good Luck to you all up in Inverness and we hope as a Section that everything goes according to plan.

That's all for this month's news ladies and gents but as always you can contact me on 07813889374 or email me on benbrookes@yahoo.co.uk

Ben Brookes

BIGGA SCOTTISH REGIONAL CONFERENCE

6 March 2012, Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline
Contact Peter Boyd, RA, 0141 616 3440

Northern Region



North Wales

I start with an apology there wasn't a column last month as my computer crashed on me and I was unable to even check my e-mail never mind do anything as interesting as the column. Luckily I've now borrowed a laptop to keep me going until I get my relic of a tower system fixed. Now to start catching up on the news of the last two months and perhaps one or two things to look forward to.

On April 13 we held the Spring Tournament at Denbigh Golf Club, I believe this was just at the start of the hot and dry start we had at the beginning of the season. I must say the course was beautifully set up, a complete joy for all 43 competitors to play and showed how much care and attention it receives from Karl Parry and team, we also have to thank the bar and catering for spoiling us with a three course lunch and excellent service.

The results for the day were; 1. Simon Ashford, 37pts; 2. Ben Hall, 35pts; 3. Paul Gator, 33 pts; 4. Neil Oxton, 33 pts. Best gross went to Rhys Butler

with a score of 74 off a scratch handicap.

The day was also a qualifier for the BIGGA National Championship sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota later on in the year and with best nett and gross scores Simon Ashford and Rhys Butler take the hopes of the Section with them. On June 15 the annual North Wales/North West match took place at Heaton Moor Golf Club more about the day and results in next month's column. In other news Johnny Evans has moved to a new job in Nottingham at a course called Ramsdale Park, with moving so far he also has had to give up his position on the Section committee, our thanks go to him for his invaluable help on committee and our best wishes to his new and most probably exciting new position. There is a 20/20 cricket match taking place in the beginning of July full details on our Facebook group North Wales bigga. I think that's about that for now so all the best until next month!

Pete Maybury

e-mail petemayb66@aol.com
mobile 07756001187



Northern

Hello everyone hope you are all well and enjoying the prolonged spell of hot and dry weather. I have just returned from a holiday in Menorca, with temps in the 30s, it was a bit of a shock to come home to our typical bank holiday weather. But back to matters golf, on July 21 the Northern Section plays the annual match v the Sheffield Section, to be hosted this year by Renishaw Park GC. The 1st tee is at 1.30pm. I am looking for 12 golfers to make up the Northern team, anyone wishing to take part please get in contact with me to put your name down. Sorry I have no news or gossip this month, if you have any please pass it on to me, Frank Stewart, 72 West Park Grove, Roundhay, LS8 2DY, Mob: 07947401278, email frankstewart3@hotmail.co.uk
Frank Stewart.



Cleveland

Not much to mention. News has been like the rain, very little in the way of it.

We had our spring tournament at Middlesbrough (Brasscastle) Golf Club on April 6. The day was kindly sponsored by Lloyds of Bishop Auckland, in association with Toro.

Thanks goes to Alistair Whitby, of Lloyds, for his help with this and his continuous behind the scenes support of the Cleveland Section. There was also other sponsors on the day, and of which I don't have details of but will follow in next month's news.

I will apologise on my behalf because I was unable to attend due to spring maintenance.

Unfortunately I don't have the results from the day, but they will follow in next month's news. I am told that the turnout was reasonable, given the time of year and everyone doing greens

maintenance.

The course was said to be in fantastic condition, with the greens running in top order, so well done to Course manager, John Talbot, and the rest of his team. A very big thank you also to the staff and officials at Middlesbrough GC for allowing us courtesy on the day and for providing a lovely meal afterwards.

Just a little brief news to follow, Martin Mccrirc, from South Shields won the Durham County Strokeplay title.

A great achievement Martin. Well done.

On a sad note, Nick Bisset, of who many of you will know was the Head Tutor for Greenkeeping at Askham Bryan College, in York for many many years sadly passed away in late May due to illness.

I had the privilege of being taught by Nick when I started my apprentice in 1997 and he was a great guy who always lightened the mood with his great sense of humour, but at the same time, could help you out with anything due to his great knowledge and experience

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of the industry. I am sure many of you will have had the same privilege.

Nick was also a Chairman of the GTC's Technical Committee in recent years, as well as being an agronomist at the STRI.

Our thoughts are with Nick's family.

That's it for now

Any news contact me on 07921817857 or kevsscarce@aol.com

Kevin Scarce



Sheffield

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone at Sickleholme GC for a fantastic day at our Spring competition. Everyone who played had a great day despite the weather and said the course was in fantastic condition.

Results: 1. S. Pigott 31pts on count back; 2. A. Unwin 31pts. Trade. T. Dodson 29 pts. Nearest the Pin R. Binns

Also a massive thanks to Proturf for their generosity once again in sponsoring the event, as we say time and time again these days would struggle to go ahead without the help of all our sponsors.

I'm sure that many of you will have heard of the tragic death of Danny Cavill, who worked at Sitwell Park GC. All our thoughts are with his family and friends at this sad time.

On a whole the Section is running well and your committee is constantly seeking ways to improve the Section we hold meetings regularly to discuss issues and ideas. If anyone has any ideas then feel free to get in touch and the ideas will be discussed.

Section polo shirts are still available for a small fee anyone thinking of refreshing their wardrobe for the summer should definitely think about adding on to their collection.

I hope everyone is managing to cope with the prolonged dry spells we have aced this year and our courses are facing up to the demands. At least we can finally justify our irrigation systems!

James Stevens

07738719614

jimthegreenkeeper@hotmail.com

Midland Region



East Midlands

Sorry for the lack of an update in the last issue, somebody decided to throw in too many bank holidays into the normal spring rush! And I hear we are all going to be enjoying another extra "long weekend" next year for the Queen's Jubilee, maybe we could celebrate the jubilee by closing our courses! Rant over!

Moving on we have some changes to announce to the way your Section is run and by whom. Firstly Andy De Wet has stepped down as Section Secretary, we would like to thank Andy for all his hard work, and wish him well for the future, coming back onto the committee is Nick Miles, Nick will be taking on Andy's role as Section Secretary, and acting as our regional rep, The Section email is now biggaeastmid@gmail.com, all results in the Pairs' Competition should now be emailed to this new address. Also coming back onto the committee is Greg Skinner and Nigel Colley, Greg and Nigel will be filling the roles of Vice Chairman, Golf Co-ordinator and Education Organiser, I will be continuing as Chairman and Scribe to the magazine as well as taking on the Treasurer's role. Finally, Carl Chamberlain will continue as the Trade Representative.

We hope that by the time you are reading this you will all have received communications relating to the new email address to contact the Section on, and mailing address to send competition entries to.

Onto events now, and again by the time you are reading this we would have played our summer competition at Cavendish GC, (I hope the rain holds off) and be due to play our inaugural Par 3 competition. Results from both of these next month.

The Pairs' Competition is up and running and results are trickling in, the deadline for the group matches to be played has been extended to the end of July, we are also delighted to announce that Headland have again agreed to sponsor this event, and we are hoping to be

playing the final at Bearwood Lakes GC, with overnight accommodation included. Unfortunately I do not think that my partner and I will be troubling the receptionists at the hotel. Our first match saw a heavy loss to Chris Weir and Lee Wenlock, although the whole reason for writing this piece is to tee myself up to tell you all about Chris Weir's air shot on the 1st, never before have I seen such a shot, the full "Have it" swing followed by triple loop, finishing with a flat dive face first onto the floor, brilliant! Told you it would go in the mag, Chris!

Finally, anyone wishing to help out on the committee or with any ideas for future events can contact me at pds1@btinternet.com or Nick at biggaeastmid@gmail.com

Regards to all

Pete Smith



Midland

Well, did you spy me on "Midlands Today" news programme last month? And no it was not in a criminal sense, you heathens. The programme was doing a piece about Birmingham City Ladies' football team and their new home ground of Stratford Town FC. I, of course, was simply mowing the pitch on a Toro Sidewinder. I, and my colleague, 12 months ago became involved with maintenance of the pitch and at that time he stated that he had just been on a seed educational trip to France and had said to a Head Groundsman of a famous Football ground "What, looking after a hectare of Rye Grass? How hard can it be?" Both he and I now know just how difficult it is. "Very" is not the word. We poncey Greenkeepers complain about pitch marks, Groundsmen have to rectify Le Somme in the winter twice weekly. It just shows how difficult similar would be professions really are and that each has to deal with many difficult problems using basically the same science, products and machinery.

Now talking of machinery, this month's kind sponsors of the calendar is our Toro dealers Abbey Mower Supplies Ltd, I don't know what I'd do without

my Sidewinders, whether it be for golf or football! For all your Toro supplies please visit Abbey's Website: www.abbey-mowers.co.uk.

The Midland Section played their annual match vs the Presidents team of Handsworth Golf Club on Tuesday, May 10. The Handsworth team was very strong, eventually winning the match 7-1. Thanks to the 12 members of the Greenkeeping team for giving their time to this long standing match, and, of course, to John Hughes and his green staff for presenting the course in such good condition, despite the recent reduction in staff numbers.

The Spring Tournament was held at Bewdley Pines Golf Club, Worcestershire on Thursday, May 12. Unfortunately the day was not supported as we would have liked, with numbers our lowest in memory at 28. This is a shame, especially when you consider the great day enjoyed by the players that make the effort. Our thanks to New Holland for sponsoring the prize table on the day. Thanks also to Sherriff Amenity x2, White-moss and Rigby Taylor for the four Nearest the Pin prizes on offer. Snacks around the course were provided by the lads from Farols. Thanks to all our sponsors as always, which add to the enjoyment of the day.

Results were as follows: 1. K. Baker, 38pts; 2. P. Evans, 38pts; 3. E. Stant, 35pts. Div 1. V. Gilroy; Div 2. A. Brougham; Div 3. P. Jefferies. Trade. A. Lane.

Our Summer Tournament is at Kenilworth Golf Club on Monday, July 11, 12.30 start. Please find an entry sheet to all our tournaments on our website www.biggamidlandsection.com

Well that's all for this month folks. If you have any news please email me: sean.mcdade@homecall.co.uk. Come on, give us a few words would you? Fishing tales next month, I promise.

Sean "The Pandecks Kid" McDade



East of England

Our latest golf day was at Immingham Golf Club on Wednesday, May 25. The golf course was in excellent condi-

tion, especially when considering the extremely small budget it is run on.

Results were as follows: 1. Rob Bemment, Immingham; 2. Russ Moody, Torksey; 3. Chris Goodall, Elsham; 4. Bryan Robinson, Belton Woods. Trade prize, Gary Cooper. Nearest the Pin was John Hewson, Market Rasen. Unfortunately Nearest the Pin in 2 was hijacked by someone called Phil McCracken. A joke that went unnoticed until the prizes were about to be given out! A mention must also go to Jim Dempster for a hole-in-one on the 12th.

Thanks also go to the Immingham catering staff for providing an excellent meal after the golf. Also thanks to Dave Hampshire and LMS for the sponsorship of the day, and for the loan of their Eclipse mower!

Our next golf day is on July 28, at Stoke Rochford Golf Club. All are welcome, please contact Bruce Hicks if you would like to play.

Many thanks,
Steve Beverly, Immingham Golf Club.



Mid Anglia

Hello everyone. It is my task to put pen to paper once again.

I have just returned from a most enjoyable Spring Tournament at Brickenden Grange, Hertford.

The weather was kind, not so some of the pin positions though. Thanks to Trevor and his team for turning out a well presented course during this testing dry spell and let's hope for some much needed rain soon! Didn't think we'd be saying that this early in the year.

Results on the day as follows: 1. L. Matthiole, with an outstanding 43 pts; 2. A. Cussen, 36 pts; 3. S. Wooley 34 pts. Longest Drive. L. Matthiole and Nearest the Pin N. Phelan.

It would be nice to see a few more faces, old and new, at the next meeting which is being held at Mount Pleasant Golf Club, on July 28. After match refreshments are likely to be a

BBQ, so a casual affair, no need for dressing up, if that's what's putting some of you younger members off! More details to follow before the event. Hope to see you there.

A couple more dates for your diaries, Autumn Meeting, September 22, at St Neots, and Winter Texas Scramble, December 8, at South Beds.

That's all the news I have for you this month. 'til next time,
Nigel Phelan

South East



Surrey

Tuesday May 17. I am writing this very early because I am on holiday from tomorrow May 18. Sorry, but you will have to wait until the August edition to read about my adventures in the Eastern Mediterranean. As my movements, due to the present troubles in the area, are rather hush hush and on a need to know basis only, so be patient, the time will pass only too quickly until I am back and am able to divulge the daring details of my 'holiday'.

The qualifier for the BIGGA National Championship sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota took place at Mitcham GC on Tuesday, May 10. Paul Weston and Danny Murray had the dubious pleasure of my company and as there were only a few small ponds on the course Gary Ogilvie was most thankful to return to the clubhouse undipped. Many thanks to Mitcham GC for allowing us courtesy, providing an excellent meal and arranging for dry weather. David Willis, their good looking Head Greenkeeper, joined us for the meal and enjoyed the numerous compliments bestowed on him by one and all. Ian Sellers, a Past Captain at Mitcham, won Nearest the Pin [the most important prize normally the preserve of Ron Christie] and Kevin Boxall did his bit for the Longest Drive. Phil Beeny was 1st with a nett 66; followed by Gavin Kyle and Stewart Clayton, both with nett 67. Jason Hunt had the best gross score of 75.

The qualifiers for the BIGGA National Championship

sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota, due to various configurations and inability to attend, will be Gavin Kyle and Danny Murray.

Details of the golf day at Surrey Downs GC, on June 8 are understandably unknown to me today and as I am a particularly useless clairvoyant, will remain so until my return from far away places with strange sounding names.

Brian "Argonaut" Willmott



Kent

Greenkeeping. What does it mean to you?

There are a number of reasons why so many of us are very proud and privileged to work within the industry.

Initially, for most, it is the enjoyment of being in the great outdoors and taking pride in helping to improve the piece of green and pleasant land that we are honoured to be custodians of. Many (single males) enjoy the perk of the abundance of golf on offer and take full advantage in lowering their handicaps. Once established in the profession, however, many of us come to realise the great community of like-minded souls who are also committed to achieving the ultimate golf course in their own back yards. It is fairly evident that the best courses are maintained by individuals who involve themselves fully in the local BIGGA community, by networking regularly with other professionals. There is an immense amount of pride that I take from the years that I put into being a greenkeeper. There will always be highs and lows in any walk of life but when you commit yourself to producing a quality product and pretty much achieve it, your worries seem a world away.

Our Section was honoured to be invited to play at the beautiful Knole Park Golf Club recently for our BIGGA National Championship sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota Qualifying event. A late tee time ensured a full turnout of nearly all our regulars to enjoy the pristine course that Gavin Kyle and his team of

Assistant Profile

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



Name: Robert Bemment
Age: 25
Club: Immingham
Position: First Assistant
Nickname: Bemo

1. How long have you been greenkeeping? Six years

2. What was it about the career that attracted you? Working in sport and liking the game of golf

3. If you weren't a greenkeeper what do you think you'd be? Working in sport

4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why? Cutting fairways because after finishing it looks good.

5. Which task do you least enjoy doing and why? Raking bunkers because it always rains after we finish.

6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot? Good machines to let us do a better job

7. Hobbies? Golf

8. Favourite Band? None. I like all music

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

10. What is your claim to fame? I met Adam Scott in a pub in St Andrews

Around The Green

greenkeepers had managed to produce. Set against the stunning backdrop of Knole Park stately home and the dozens of deer that wander around every hole, the assembled group of us were able to make hay while the sun shone. Indeed, the sun had been shining, without respite, for pretty much the last two months,

that was, however, until my group reached the 14th tee, standing on one of the high points of the course we could see the rain coming what we didn't expect was a hail shower so hard that by the time we reached the green it was buried in half an inch of ice.

The lightning speed from the greens transferred to lightning in the sky, three of us huddled under the hopeless protection of Roachy's broly but as the rain got harder we quickly realised that a sturdier form of shelter was necessary. Golf became a tad tricky for the next couple of holes despite the sun re-appearing fairly quickly.

Standing on the 18th tee for his final tee shot, Kev suffered from the dreaded slippery grip/wet glove combo resulting in his driver actually going further than his ball. Despite the weather though, a really enjoyable golfing experience in a fantastic environment.

On return to the clubhouse, after thawing out in the shower for a couple of hours, we were treated to a very welcome curry. Results of the day were as follows:

1. Steve Gunner, 37 pts; 2. Chris White, 36 pts; 3. Glynn Pollard, 35 pts. Nearest the Pin was achieved by Gary Branchett and Longest Drive, by Dan McGrath. The Trade Prize was won by Stewart Clayton. Best of luck to Steve and Chris who will now go on to represent Kent in the BIGGA National Championship sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota.

Thank you to Knole Park for hosting the day. Thanks also to our trade members for their continued support, especially Greensman and Sherriffs for providing additional prizes on the day. But mostly thanks to everyone who attended for making our Section such a brilliant group. Can't wait 'til the next event!

On the subject of the next event, as you all know we have dropped our usual summer

fixture in favour of a Summer Pairs' Knockout Tournament. The full draw and details of this are available on our website.

One other event to report is that Michael Wigstone, of Tenterden Golf Club, is due to become a dad again soon. Well done, mate.

Lastly, two great bits of news from the coastal region of our section. Obviously we are very proud to be hosting the Open Championship at Royal St George's in July. One new member of the greenkeeping team is one of Kent Section stalwarts, Adam White. Adam has made the move to Royal St. George's after sterling service to the North Foreland Golf Club.

We wish him well with his move and the greenkeeping team well for the forthcoming prestigious event. On the subject of North Foreland, the long serving Course Manager, Dan McGrath has just been awarded his richly deserved Master Greenkeeper accreditation. Well done mate.

Rob Holland
www.kentgreenkeepers.com



London

Firstly, on behalf of the London Section committee, we would like to apologise for the lack of content in Around the Green. An important London Section committee meeting took place at Mill Hill GC on May 26 and all present felt very passionate about moving the London Section forward.

We are here to represent members of our section so any information or feedback will be greatly received.

A big thank you to Andy Wight for the great part he plays in organising and coordinating the education seminars, along with his liaison committee. These have become popular events, which are greatly discussed and enjoyed by all that attend.

Many thanks for all your feedback from the event, the audio and visuals will be corrected for the next seminar with plans for the line up well underway.

We are looking to run a half day seminar at a local golf club towards the end of the season, about new relevant develop-

ments in the industry, look out for this in future Around the Green columns.

Thank you to all those who attended the Hadley Wood Golf Day and to Simon and his team for preparing the course for us, their hard work was evident.

Congratulations to the winner Kane Stone, runner up David Badham and qualifiers who will go on to represent the London Section at the BIGGA National Championship sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota. Many thanks also to AT Oliver & Sons for sponsoring the day.

The next golf day is at Finchley Golf Club on Wednesday August 3. 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 l.cox15@btinternet.com matt.plested@hotmail.co.uk

Adam McColl



Essex

Another dry month has passed us by and in Essex we pray for rain, as I expect you all do in many other parts of the country.

May has seen a couple of events in our Section/Region, firstly on May 5 Essex played a game of football against Sussex.

The score is immaterial as everyone who took part thoroughly enjoyed the game and the experience. 3 - 2 to Essex was the final score, the home side got off to a fast start and soon had the goals flowing into the back of the net but they were not to be out done as Sussex soon struck back and netted a couple of their own, well done to all the players and supporters that turned up for a splendid afternoons sport.

The match was set up and hosted by Toro UK, at none other than Upton Park home to West Ham United. Our thanks go to Larry Pearman and Richard Freeman, plus Toro UK Sales Manager, Jeff Anguige, who presented the trophies and Dougie Robertson, Head Groundsman at West Ham, plus the club for allowing us the experience.

We were graced with full FA referee and linesmen so it was as near to Premier League as we could get.

One very proud member of the Essex team was long time supporter of West Ham for 50 years, Martin Forrester. Martin attends nearly every match at home and I'm sure the odd away one.

His face was a picture, as he proudly walked out on to the pitch to take his turn in the side - talk about the cat that got the cream. Well that was Martin. Every picture tells a story and later, as he relaxed in the Manager and Player's seats in the grandstand, he looked right at home.

That's not to say that he was the only member of the teams to support West Ham as I saw quite a few team shirts being proudly displayed both before and after the match.

The second event I had the pleasure to attend, although not quite in Essex, was the BMW PGA Championship, at Wentworth. The course was a picture. Chris Kennedy and his team should be proud of all the hard work they have put in on the changes that were made to the course over the past year (well done guys).

I was lucky enough to draw Ian Poulter for both of my weekend rounds and although he did not figure at the top of the leaderboard he still finished in his best ever position in that event, his partner on the final day was Marcus Fraser, who came fourth overall, so I was treated to some very good golf. Thanks to Clive Osgood for organising us all and keeping us in check.

Images of both events are on the website www.essexbigga.co.uk.

One major movement this month is the appointment of Andrew Pledger to the head position at Chelmsford Golf Club, I'm sure that you will all join me in congratulating him of his new position..

By the time you read this we will have held our Summer Tournament at Nazeing Golf Club and I will bring you all the news and scores in the next magazine.

If you have anything for inclusion in Greenkeeper International or on the Section's Website www.essexbigga.co.uk please contact me on 07764 862.337 or at essexbigga@talktalk.net

Arnold Phipps-Jones

South West and South Wales



South Wales

I write this article fresh from supporting the Celtic Manor Greens Staff set up the course on the Thursday and Friday mornings of the SAAB Wales Open. I must say how well the work carried out over the last eight months has enabled them to present the course in outstanding fashion! Beautiful sunshine, minimal wind, absolutely perfect conditions for the tournament, totally different to October. I hope the weekend stayed as good for you and the boys, Jim.

Our Spring Competition Glynhir Golf Club

As I wrote in last month's Around The Green we were looking to change the format for this event - we did.

We played a 4 man team event Texas Scramble. Wayne Benger (a poor manager as he explained to me) set up his beautiful picturesque golf course in outstanding condition to welcome BIGGA South Wales and 19 teams of four. A big thank you to Wayne and his small team to make the day very memorable and one where a return visit will definitely be on.

The results: 1. D. Bray, W. Benger, M. Leech, L. Davies, 52pts;

2. I. Kinley, D. Jones, R. Williams, S. Chappell, 50pts; 3. J. Probert, H. Probert, S. Mills, P. Lacey, 50pts

Nearest the Pins. Prizes were Heineken Cup Final Tickets, International Rugby Tickets and play-off tickets. John Ward, John Holmstrom, Tony Horne, Brian Francis and Wayne Benger

Longest Drive. Martin Jones. Neil Roderick

So, a huge well done to all the winners; Glynhir Golf Club for their generous hospitality for the day and also our sponsors for the event DEAL and Textron.

We look forward now to a busy few golfing weeks, The RT Qualifier at Neath GC, June 16; The BIGGA Golf Management Trophy at Morryston GC, June 29; The BIGGA Summer Com-

petition at Wenvoe Castle GC, July 6.

I hope as many of us can make it to Wenvoe Castle GC to support Mark Wilshire, the new Head Greenkeeper, in his role and seeing any changes he's made and the club are also celebrating their 75th anniversary at the venue.

Peter Holmstrom



South Coast

As I write this in early June, staring out at straw coloured fairways, wondering when we might be lucky enough to catch one of those heavy showers that the weather forecaster talked about.

Mustn't complain, I did get 3mm over the weekend which did little more than settle the dust and annoy the wife because the washing was on the line. I said she should be more sympathetic, as we poor greenkeepers need rain to make life a little easier. Needless to say I never got a sensible answer.

The spring tournament in memory of Colin White, sponsored by Avoncrop was played at Liphook Golf Club.

As usual we had planned perfect weather, equally so David Murdoch had planned some devious pin positions around the stunning golf course.

A field of 48 played on the best greens I have been on this year. It was a stern test on the day which was reflected in the scores.

Cat 1) 0-13 1. Pete Oliver, Hankley Common, 34pts; 2. Darren Jones, Canford Magna, 33pts; 3. Colin Pardey, Sherbourne, 32pts. Cat 2) 14-28. 1. Colin Hutt, Basingstoke, 33pt; 2. Simon Justice, Alresford, 32pts; 3. Mike Lake, Blackmore, 31pts. Longest Drive. Kevin Tigg, Nearest the Pin. Dave Ross.

Many thanks as always to Avoncrop for their sponsorship. It was great to see Colin's family in attendance along with Joanna, from Avoncrop. Well done Dave and his team for presenting the course in superb condition. Lastly thanks to Jane for coming up to meet and greet as people arrived.

The Secretary and I were lucky enough to be invited to

Basingstoke Golf Club for their annual Bowl, another perfect day of sunshine light winds, in fact everything to encourage good golf, shame we came last. The course was in excellent condition. Well done Colin as always.

Next golf event is the match against the Secretaries, results of which will be in the next issue. Then the summer invitation is at Brokenhurst Manor on July 20, remember this is Kev's course so he will want to show it off. Usual email glassy2003@hotmail.com if you want to play. Your guest should be a member of a golf club and have a current handicap, get booked in early as this will be popular. Until next month.

Tony Gadd



South West

It's amazing isn't it...we have weeks of amazing weather, all to be enjoyed while we are at work, then just as a Bank Holiday comes along...it rains!

I'm sure this would have caused consensation too many of you, not me, however, I was sunning it up in Benidorm, helping to celebrate a friend's stag do...enough said!

You'll never believe this (well, those of you who know me might) but I've lost my car key. Not too much of a problem I hear you say, just use the spare one... if only I had one!

Trouble is, it's not just a normal car key, it's one of those key cards that works on a hands free system. After turning my place upside down looking for it, I gave in and admitted it was

lost...contact Renault, they say "not a problem Sir, just get the car to us and we'll order you a new key." I say "how do I that, I've lost my car key" he then replies "now we've a problem Sir.....".

So after having arranged a tow truck to the Renault garage, my new key card waiting for me, they get set to programme it for me...only to have ordered the wrong key! Can you believe my luck, I'm without my car for the best part of three weeks all because I lose my key card, Fantastic, I thought!

You see the Champions League final?

Sorry but I have to mention it. How awesome, amazing, entertaining is Messi? I remember the days waking up knowing I was that good, in my dreams. But honestly is there anything this player can't do...I love watching him, a true genius with a football.

Well guys, sorry I haven't got much more to say, this has been a rather boring month for me, maybe you could share some of your tales with me ready for next month....

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

Remember that we also have our own South West Section Facebook page, proving to be very useful, only for it to grow as more of you 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.

Adam Matthews
adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk
07732503855

BIGGA Regional Conferences

All forthcoming conferences are as follows...

South East, 16 November 2011, Stock Brook Manor Golf Club, Essex
Contact Clive Osgood, RA, 01737 819343

South West & South East, 17 November 2011, Oaktree Arena, Highbridge, Somerset
Contact Jane Jones, RA, 01454 270850

Scotland, 6 March 2012, Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline
Contact Peter Boyd, RA, 0141 616 3440