

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 of Scotland



Ayrshire



North

Central

A good turnout of 30 people came to hear Stan Zontek, of the USGA Greens Section, speak at Elmwood on April 21. Stan gave an interesting slide show showing some of the changes made to Pebble Beach for the 2010 US Open and at Congressional for this year's Championship.

Our Spring meeting was held in glorious weather at Ladybank GC on April 28. The main prizewinners were, Scratch, G. Duncan, Carnoustie, 75; Best Nett, Elliott Small, 70; Class 1, I. J. Watson, St Andrews, Nett 73. Class 2, D. Scott, Sconie, Nett 70. A full report of winners is on the website www.bigga-centralsection.org.uk

Our thanks go to Ladybank GC and their Captain, Bill Pettigrew, and also to the Course Manager, Colin Powrie, and his team, for the excellent condition and presentation of the golf course.

There were 16 teams entered the Pairs tournament and again the draw and results will be posted on the website.

Finally for this month, one of the greenkeepers at The Dukes Course, Steven Horsburgh had a baby girl Amy 8lb 5oz on Sunday, April 24, and Steven Wilson has left The Duke's to work up at the Trump project in Aberdeen (take your thermals, Steve).

Gordon Moir

The Spring Outing was played over the Craighelaw Golf Links on the 19th of April and the weather was sunny and calm just as I ordered. Course Manager, Mark Reid, and his staff presented the links well although some tricky hole positions were mentioned. A huge thanks to all the staff at Craighelaw for the hospitality shown to our section. Some 24 members attended the event amongst those the Scottish Chairman, Stuart Taylor scored a 72 with seven three putts (well done Stuart) scores as follows:

Scratch Winner. Philip Butler, Murrayfield GC, 72. 1st Class Winner. Grant Moran, Mortonhall GC, 68 Nett; 2. Sean Cunningham Mortonhall GC, 69 Nett. 2nd Class Winner. Ryan McCulloch, Goswick GC, 70 Nett; 2. Robbie Murdoch, Dundas Parks GC, 76 Nett

Best Nett. Ian Lauder, Kelso GC, 69 Nett; Veterans' Prize, Alastair Holmes, Seahouses GC, 75 Nett. Trade Prize. Hugh Fraser, Huxley Golf Ltd, 69 Nett (BIH). Longest Drive 4th hole, Ian Lauder, Thomas Sherriffs

Nearest to Pin at Hole 10 - Philip Butler, Murrayfield GC

Congratulations to all!
Jimmy Nelson, Vice Chairman, delivered the After Dinner speech, which went down very well in my absence. Thanks to Jimmy, and nice to see Jimmy Combe playing with Jimmy for 16 holes. Both still have tremendous golf swings!

Next outing at Mortonhall (Willie Woods Tournament). Entry forms should be with you soon. Date for tournament is August 9.

Stewart Crawford - Chairman

Hi to you all once again. Summer seems to have come early this year. As I write the notes for this month the weather man has forecast rain. Woohoo! Never thought I'd say that. But we need it.

Not just because I've got the greenkeepers t-shirt tan but the ground is overdue a soaking of the good stuff!

Hope all of you guys have managed to get the wetting agents and sprinklers on in the meantime!

The Spring Outing was held over Prestwick St Cuthbert's on April 26 on what was more of a summer's day, the driest April on record I believe!

The turnout for the day ahead was poor although given the good weather following the Easter weekend it's maybe not surprising.

Thanks to all those who did make the journey to the sunny town of Prestwick. Thanks must go to St Cuthbert's for allowing us the use of the course facilities....

Special thanks must go to Richard Fulton and his staff for presenting the course in first class condition!

Results for the day are as follows:- visitor/trade prize-P.Boyd

1st Class. 1. G. Morrison; 2. W. McMeiken; 3. R. Fulton; 4. D. Wilson;

2nd Class. 1. M. Lothian; 2. I. Barr; 3. D. Watson; 4. J. Wilson.

That's the latest news for this month. As usual I ask you to get in touch with any news.

Until next time.

John Mair

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Firstly, may I apologise for there not being any notes in last month's edition. The plain and simple answer as to why this was that there wasn't any news from the biggest Section in Britain to report. If no one contacts me with news then I can't put anything in the magazine. I can't just make stuff up. Sorry, rant over.

We finally managed to get a date for our Spring Outing at Montrose. Back in April the weather was fantastic and Niall Bruce actually consulted his diary and found a day suitable for the outing. I personally think he's been a little side tracked by a certain young lady he's met - but these are purely rumours!

Niall, full credit to you and your squad for presenting the course in the way you did - just toasting perfectly. We had a good turn out as usual and I think that everyone that was there said that the weather and the course made their day.

Here goes with the results: Nearest the Pin. Gary Tough and Neil Sadler

Sweep. 1. Richard Watt; 2. Dave Middleton; 3. Gary Tough; 4. Jim McCormack. Guest Winner. George Bain; Trade Winner. Kevin Peace

Committee. Hugh McLatchie; Veterans'. 1. Jim McCormack; 2. Brian Hunter. Class 3. 1. Brian Hunter; 2. Hugh McLatchie; 3. Mike Braidwood.

Class 2. 1. Richard Watt; 2. Dave Middleton; 3. Richard Pirie. Class 1. 1. Jim McCormack; 2. Derek Green; 3. Fraser Downie. Scratch. 1. Gary Tough; 2. George Mitchell.

I had the pleasure of playing with a certain James

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McCormack. I can't say it was a memorable experience, for me that is, but he played pretty well but when he hit a bad shot, he was like a bear with a sore head.

On with other news, people on the move, Stephen Brown, Deputy Head with George Mitchell, at Newmachar GC, has made the step up to Head Greenkeeper at Inch GC. Congratulations Stephen, I'm sure you'll do a fantastic job. Well done.

Ross MacRae has taken up the post that Stephen left behind and young Denis Grant, from Huntly, has taken up the post as an assistant at Newmachar too. Good luck Denis and I hope you can cope working with George and Ross. Good luck to you all.

That's all for this month. If you do have any news please contact me on 07813 889374 or email me on benpbrookes@yahoo.co.uk. Happy Greenkeeping
Ben Brookes



West

By the time you read this the sun will be scorching the surfaces but full growth will be present and the golfers will be full of praise for your gallant efforts over the winter period emphasising how great it is you manage to produce excellent surfaces year in year out.

I hope that is the case, but sadly things are harder and harder as budgets are cut each year and more demands are put on people to provide good, fast putting surfaces no matter what.

Unfortunately times are getting more difficult as courses lose members and clubs are unable to budget properly due to an unpredictable income, I just hope things improve over the coming years or we may see some clubs fold or even change to Pay and Play.

Sorry to be Mr Doom and Gloom, but our industry is suffering and I just wanted to state that we are all in the same boat, the demands on all people now are far greater than before in all industries.

Over the years our job has

changed dramatically with the advent of new equipment and the extremely high and sometimes unreal expectations of golfers. Gone are the days of sitting in the sheds on wet days, Councils and Committee want their pound of flesh.

What is it they say? The customer is always right! I hope most all of you are having a good season and look forward to your comments because I'm sure some people will disagree and I might even get a few phone calls.

Enough of the banter let's get onto the stuff in hand, I attended the Annual match against the Secretaries at Glasgow Gailes on May 3 in which we once again were victorious, but I have to say not due to my efforts.

Well done to the rest of the team and hard lines Secretaries for producing such a close game, thanks to Brian Dickson and his staff at Gailes for producing a lovely course and the members of Glasgow Golf Club for allowing us to play there.

Please remember the Scottish National Tournament at the Dukes course on June 15 and enter quickly as they are limited in numbers.

Kenny Hunter has to be congratulated on becoming a grandfather for the first time in the last month and here was me thinking you were just a nipper yourself, I do hope mum and baby are doing well.

Please remember if you have any comments or something you wish to mention then please contact me on stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com or 0141-942-5554 or my mobile is 07790823914.

Finally thanks to Gerry Bruen and Brian Bolland for your company the other evening when you dragged me for a few pints, I hope you were back home for 12 like good boys.

Stuart Taylor

Northern Region



North East

On April 13 we played the Annual Spring Comp. at Newcastle Utd GC. This was the

first time we had been there for many a year, in fact I don't seem to remember when we were last there, however it was a privilege to play the course and congratulations have to be in order for the Head Greenkeeper, Peter Anderson, and his staff for the remarkable condition of the course and, in particular, the greens considering the winter we had and the driest spring for a 100 years.

It wasn't the ideal start to a busy season ahead, but with Peter and one of his staff playing we managed to reach double figures and I know if we hadn't had about three or four of our regulars missing, it would have been a good turnout.

Never mind, we just have to hope that more people will turn out for the Autumn. Other thank yous were to the Steward on the meal. It was said that it was the best meal we had for a long time.

To the sponsors, who once again did us proud, those being Greenlay; TSL; Lloyds; Aitkens; Shorts; Rigby Taylor and finally Tony McLure, of TM Amenties.

Now for the leading scores: Best Gross. Jordan Gibson, Northumberland GC, 74. Best Nett. M. Harvey, Wearside GC, 71;

S. R. Pope, Tyneside GC, 72 Nett; S. Riley, Hexham GC, 74

J. S. Richardson, Hexham GC, 76; J. Storey, Alnmouth GC, 79;

W. Birks, Newcastle Utd GC, 89; P. Anderson, Newcastle Utd GC, 90

M. Harvey's handicap has been reduced to 18.

Autumn competition is to be held at Longhirst Hall GC on September 21. Members will be notified nearer the date

Sadly I have some bad news. BIGGA member, Michael Robson, the mechanic at Slaley Hall GC, died in April following a short illness.

Michael was just 60. Our thoughts go out to his family in these sad times.

Jimmy Richardson



Sheffield

Hello all,

Sorry I missed last time, I've been quite busy and the deadline passed before I noticed. I'm sure you will all forgive me!

I hope all who played at Sickleholme GC enjoyed the day and I'm sure the boys at Sickleholme will have had the course in great condition. A full report from Sickleholme will be in next month's edition.

I'd like to say that I've been inundated with members wanting to make the final squad for our cricket match against Rigby Taylor but sadly I haven't. If anyone is interested in playing please get in touch as the selectors need at least a couple of weeks to get the right balance in the team.

A BBQ and bar will be available on the day so bring the family and make a day of it.

We will shortly be asking any members if they would like to play in the Annual Sheffield vs. Northern match for further details and if anyone is interested in playing please get in touch.

Finally, I would like to welcome our new Chief Executive, Jim Croxton.

I'm sure we are all excited at what changes will be made to the organisation and how Jim will move BIGGA forward in the future.

I hope the summer months are going well for you all and you are all getting the praise that you deserve.

Good luck in June and see you all in July

Jim Stevens

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Northern

Hello everyone hope you are all well and enjoying this great start to the new golf season. Who



Around The Green

would have thought that by the end of April we would be desperate for a good rain shower. If we do get one, together with these silly spring temperatures, we will be able to watch the grass grow.

On April 20 we held our Spring tournament at the KP Club Pocklington. On behalf of the Section I would like to thank the committee and members of the club for courtesy of the course, and the bar and catering staff for a good reception and great meal. We would also like to thank Keith and his staff for presenting us with such a great course.

These events cannot take place without sponsorship, so we would like to thank Sherriff Amenity for their support. We had a good turnout on a sunny day, and it was nice to see a few new faces.

Prizewinners on the day, Scratch Trophy. A Baxter, Div 1. 1. A. Slingsby; 2. A. Court; 3. N. Coultish. Div 2. 1. S. Trowsdale; 2. F. Stewart; 3. G. Street. Div 3. 1. R. Smith; 2. N. Booth; 3. K. Christie, Nearest the Pins. 6th D Collins 17th (with local knowledge) K. Callander. Trade Prize. 1. T. Arana; 2. I. Collett.

I would like to thank everyone for attending, and look forward to seeing you all at Moortown GC on June 22.

That is all for this month so if you have any news or gossip, please pass it on to me:

Frank Stewart 72 West Park Grove, Roundhay, LS8 2DY. Mob 07947401278. email frankstewart3@hotmail.co.uk.

Midland Region



Midland

I can only hope that by the time you read this month's notes it has rained. I know that many of us have the latest and greatest computerised systems that can be reprogrammed by a simple phone call to a service centre in Belgium and that such happens in front of your eyes here in England in real time, and that it waters greens, tees, fairways, members (so funny

and, of course, us with alarming regularity. Nothing quite so pleasant as trying to turn off (with an ill-fitting plastic key) a sprinkler that is spewing a vertical jet that is destined for the moon.

However, many of us have to cope with antiquated systems that have the pressure and coverage of a dog peeing on the run after pinching a steak from the butchers. I can only shudder at the stresses that such brings, but I'll bet that you have a good mix of poa and agrostis, and that your roots go down a mile. You can have too much of a good thing you know!

Talking of good things, Gary "The Hedge" Hanson, who has served at Stratford on Avon GC for the last five years has retired for a well deserved rest and to travel the world, and he will. Gary is one of the fittest 64 year olds I have ever met and standard of work has been second to none, not even mine.

All of the boys at Stratford would like to wish you the very best and thank you for your wonderful banter and friendship over too few a year, you will of course come and see us unwashed working class, someone's got to finish the crossword Captain, but don't forget the sugar.

The Section's Spring Education Training Day was held by Sherriff Amenity & Johnsons Seed where a visit took place on April 13 to DLF Trifolium Trial Grounds at Winchcombe, Gloucestershire. Derek Smith, from Johnsons, gave a presentation, covering DLF breeding operations, which everybody found very interesting.

After a coffee it was on with the coats to the trial grounds and an opportunity to see many of the most popular cultivars as straights and question the breeders.

After lunch it was on to Inkberrow for a tour of the UK's largest grass seed mixing plant. All were amazed at how busy it was, and how much work goes in to that 20kg bag of seed we all buy.

A great day out was had by all, and our thanks to Derek Smith and Nigel Tyler, of Sherriff Amenity, for arranging the day.

The 2010 final of the Scotts Doubles took place on April 14 at the impressive Wentworth Club. The day was re-arranged due to injury by one of the finalists last

year and was finally contested by John Ganley and Steve Scott, from North Warwickshire GC, and Richard Beecham and Gary Turner, from Wrekin GC.

After a pulsating final it was the pair of Richard and Gary who took home the Scotts Shield for the first time.

A huge thank you to Lewis Blois, of Scotts, who entertained everybody with distinction, which included lunch in the historical clubhouse before play, and dinner in a country pub by the course after play.

Also, a big thank you to Chris Kennedy, and the Wentworth Club, for allowing us to try out the new greens on the West course for the first time. This is the most wonderful prize and good luck to all who have entered this year.

This month's kind calendar sponsor's are Whitemoss who, as if you didn't know, produce and provide turf dressings, root zones, sands etc. that can be tailored to your specifications. Their web site: www.whitemoss-eco.co.uk.

Or you can call our old friend Mike Whitehouse on: 07795 395 669. Right, you've got a couple of weeks to get your entries into Gary for the Summer Tournament which is to be held at the lovely Golf Club Kenilworth, on Monday, July 11. Start time 12:30.

Once again let us hope that it has rained, but not for the golf course you see, something far more important, the rivers.

Tight lines, Fisher Mac.
Sean McDade



BB&O

The great British Spring can be extremely fickle and sometimes hard to predict, even the latest scientific equipment and gadgets that are available never seem to give the result we are all looking for.

It can blow hot and cold, wet and windy and often brings along sudden unpredictable surprises. Spring this year with warm spells encouraged a welcome boost in growth on our courses, to a rapid change where high temperatures tested

the irrigation and water supplies early in the season, leaving a month in May to pondering what delights the weatherman will bring for us all in June.

The BB&O carrier pigeon has reported that the Rigby Taylor Foursomes event is well under way and the draw has taken place with all entrants ready at the mark, as the carrier pigeon understands it, this year has preliminary rounds to play which will sort out the bowler hats from the sombreros, with the final, yet to be decided later in the year.

Defending champions look out, Ring Taylor, the new Secretary, has been sharpening his six gun skills, sorry! Six-iron skills to compete in this popular tournament which will be played all over the three counties.

On August 24, Dave Knight and crew welcome us to Donnington Grove GC on the edges of Berkshire in the lovely town of Newbury to host The Summer Tournament.

This fantastic course with a challenging layout and beautiful gardens will test the winner to qualify for the BIGGA National Championship. Put it in your diary before you forget.

A new Ryder Cup style format will take place in October between the BB&O. Teams will be formed to compete between Oxon, Berks and Bucks bringing ties and linking the three counties together for what will be a great new style of play to unite the section together. Look forward to it; keep your eyes on the web site.

If you have any news or views the section website designer is eager for photo's past and present or anything relevant on the golf course you wish to share with the masses.

Calum Taylor can be contacted on coursemanagerbmgc@yahoo.co.uk

Lastly, on a sombre note, it is with great regret that I have to report the sudden passing of Ian McMillan. Ian was the Course Manager at Walton Heath GC, Surrey. Ian was widely known and respected throughout the British Isles for his knowledge



and greenkeeping talents, reaching the pinnacle of his profession.

In this, he carried on a family tradition of fine greenkeeping. He had a great zest for life and will be sadly missed.

On behalf of the BB&O, I extend to his wife and family our sincere condolences.

Mark Day

South West and South Wales Region



South Wales

Hello and thanks for reading.

Without any hesitation a big thank you must go out to Ceri Richards who has stepped down from writing these articles for the last two and a half years a big thank you from all of us from the Section and on a personal note I hope your golf doesn't improve too much as I am quite fond of picking up the trade prizes at our golf days!

So with the fixture cards all out and with you another thank you must go to Alan Able, of Complete Weed Control, for their continued support in sponsoring them.

With Glynhir being the host for our spring tournament it is nice for the Section to visit a new venue and also holding a new format. The format for the day is four man Stableford with best two scores counting. Wayne Bengier, Glynhir's Head Greenkeeper, has managed to pull in some great prizes for the event which include Heineken Cup tickets and International Rugby tickets and lots of other prizes donated by our sponsors David Evans (DEAL) and Textron. So keep a look out in next month's Around the Green for the results.

As you'll be reading this article I think many of you within this Region and Section could cast an eye back over last October (Rain, Rain more Rain and...Mr McDowell).

The Celtic Manor is back in action again nearly seven months after that man won

the last point so Europe won the Ryder Cup and many of us had the hardest but most rewarding times of our lives. Jim Mackenzie and his team have worked extremely hard in getting playing surfaces back to their best and the spectator areas just back to being able to walk on! Inscapes have provided Celtic Manor with over four hectares of turf and Countrywide providing more than four tonnes of special mix grass seed to repair the damaged areas we all saw last year all the staff have had their hands full during what has been one of the harshest winters and driest springs on record.

FACT since February 1 Celtic Manor accumulatively has had less rainfall than of any of the three days it rained during the Ryder Cup week!

So good luck Jim and your team and hope you have a successful SAAB Wales Open which you guys thoroughly deserve.

Once again thank you for reading if anyone has any ideas, moans, groans laughs or cries you know who I am, give me a call on 07876440599 or drop me an email at pholmstrom@countrywidefarmers.co.uk

Thank you, Peter Holmstrom



South Coast.

Hi all.

As I write this we are approaching our spring tournament at Liphook GC. sponsored by Avoncrop in memory of Colin (Chalkie) White.

An exciting new venue for us that I hope is well supported, results will be in next months issue.

I have just returned from a nine day Nordic City Cruise which was excellent, never thought I would take to cruising but I am hooked, must be my age! One or two of our members commented on taking holidays during busy times.

Simple, I replied I have a great team!

We have just got through the driest April on record coupled with some of the highest tem-

peratures for years, that, along with a constant easterly wind, and the course looks like mid-summer.

May hasn't really started any better although storms are forecast at the weekend, we will see!

The Section is very quiet at the moment, the committee met on April 13 to discuss topics for our Autumn seminar and possible venues for next year's golf. As always if you have any requests, let someone on the committee know.

This year's seminar will be at Milton Abbey School, another new venue with a different approach as there will be walks and talks on the work that goes on there. More details will be published later on.

Some good news from the Section is that Ian Noble is back in greenkeeping, he is the Head Man at Parley Golf Centre, we all wish you well Ian. Also Fred Deamen is back on track, Alton went into receivership late last year but the members have bailed it out and they are again trading.

Here at Barton we have aerated, over-seeded, top dressed, fed and watered everything within the area that the watering system covers. Five tonnes of outfield fertiliser sits on a trailer in the shed waiting for the slightest hint of rain!

My staff are hedging bets on who will get the dubious pleasure of spreading it in damp windy conditions!

In the mean time its onward with wetting agent, wetter pellets and keeping well out of the way of members who want me to over-water the greens.

Our next event will be Brokenhurst Manor on July 20, don't forget it's our invitation competition so your guests must be a member of a golf club with a valid handicap. This is Kev's course so he will be keen to show it off.

A flier will be sent out nearer the date but for more information contact Kev on glassy2003@hotmail.com In the mean time happy greenkeeping, see you at the golf events.

Tony Gadd

Section Notes

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Assistant Profile

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



Name: Martyn Lumb

Age: 40

Club: Elsham

Position: Assistant Greenkeeper

Nickname: Two Bellies

1. How long have you been greenkeeping? 10 years

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

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

4. Which task do you most enjoy doing? Construction (creative)

5. Which task do you least enjoy doing? Weeding

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

7. Hobbies?

Golf and cinema

8. Favourite Band?

Broken Family Band

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

Tottenham

10. What is your claim to fame?

Met Andy Sinton and gave him five golf balls



South West

This past month, we held a classic Section event....it was the return (apart from last year's) of the "SOUTH WEST SECTION AMAM".

We had this very special event at Chipping Sodbury GC which was again in very fine condition, a great credit to all of the staff at Chipping Sodbury. This event is special to us because it allows us to bring our friends from outside the Association, a fine opportunity to show how professional BIGGA is!

The event was a great success, with more than 40 players, including some faces that we've not see recently...great to see you all and we hope to see you all again at the next event!

The evening meal was amazing...buffet style curry and I promise you, the dessert tray was incredible, even heaven was jealous of this one, I had to hit the gym after a couple of helpings, my bad!

To the results, in third place with 40pts (after countback), Darren Moxham and his partner Jerry Nash. In second place with 41pts, Chris Sealy and his partner Pete Scarander.

The 2011 "South West Section AMAM" winner...with an impressive 44pts, John Scoones and his partner Robert Wychard. Well done to all of the winners.

What a great last couple of weeks we've just had...the weather has been at its absolute best and I somehow manage to take the three magical days off that gave me 11 days holiday, I'm not bragging, not my style to, but that really was great work on my part, it really was brilliant!

The beer garden just kept calling my name, rude not to reply and sample what they had to offer....turns out double vision and a hangover was on the menu.

On a serious note, I do hope that you are all enjoying this incredible weather and that your courses are tolerating the conditions.

How many of you enjoyed the Royal Wedding, I did, this was one of the days that the beer

garden was calling my name....

What a great day this was, sure to go down in the history books to be one of the most special occasions in British history, only to be out done by the Americans just a couple of days later?

I hope to see everyone at our next section event, Thursday, June 30 at Knowle GC. This will be our Summer Tournament and as always the winner will be invited to the National Championship. Please be ready for the invitations to be with you shortly.

However if you can't wait until then, we have a section match at Long Ashton against the South West secretaries, on Wednesday, June 8, contact your Section Captain, Wayne Vincent.

Please do your best to play in at least one of these events.

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, 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.

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



Devon and Cornwall

Hello all,
A bit of a quiet time for us, so not much to report!
We do have our annual "Devon v Cornwall" match on Wednesday 15th June at Dartmouth G&CC.

Cornwall are on a bit of a run by winning the last two years running, so it is Devon's turn to be victorious this time! Home advantage should help rather than having to travel to the dark-side!! Can you tell which County I am from yet?

We look forward to seeing Terry Farkins and his team at Dartmouth and I am sure that the course is going to be in fantastic condition.

The golf will commence at 12.30pm and the course walk at 2.00pm. this will be followed by a BBQ on the terrace and a presentation.

Dress code will be informal afterwards as long as it conforms to the clubs rules, (No shirt and tie required!)

Invites should have reached you by now, so if you can contact me asap to secure a place.

George Pitts
Section Secretary
BIGGA Devon & Cornwall
07929 754401
gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com

South East Region



Surrey

Many thanks to Gareth Roberts and Jim Russell for last month's entry and their memories and tribute to Ian McMillan.

The result of the Texas Scramble at Epsom GC on March 31 was: First. P. Marney, A. Foulds, J. Cushing and loudly supported by some other guy named Dave. Runners Up were T. Bremer, A. Freeman, I. Sellers and M. Harvey. The most important prize, Nearest the Pin, was won by R. Christie and the Longest Driver was D. Nordsworthy.

All prize winner first names have been withheld to protect them from begging letters. Kevin Boxer has now become our man in charge of golf days and we were all pleased that his first event was eggremely well attended and eggcellently organised.

The kind hearted person who gave Kevin a present of an undeveloped chicken, still in its original shell wrapping, as he was crossing one of the many roads must be forever grateful that his car did not stall and personally receive Kevin's thanks.

The result of the Mitcham GC Golf Day will appear in July's edition but I am sure that I will

do well, for my golf is much improved as can be vouched for by my Surrey Bowl partner Paul Weston. Although we lost very narrowly to our first round opponents, Messrs Freeman and Langheim, I can see a bright and rewarding future for our new OAP paring.

Please let me know of any interesting news or special events or else the next edition will focus on my forthcoming cruise to the far reaches of the Byzantine heritage, Turkish delights, the Marsaxlokk experience and the Beauty of the Bosphorus.

Be warned and Bon Voyage
Brian Willmott



Kent

Sorry but this needs to be a rather short report this month as I'm very glad to report that I've got loads of work on!

Must say though that since leaving my old employ I've been enjoying playing a lot more golf on a few different courses so watch out for me on the summer knockout tournament!

By the time you read this we would just have played our early summer event at Knole Park. Many thanks to Gavin Kyle and his team for hosting this much anticipated event for us. For all those of you who are playing in our Kent Summer Pairs Knock-out, Please do your best to get at least one round in each month and report the result back to me or Kev so we can draw the next round.

Just leaves me to say thanks again to all my fellow professionals out there and see you on a course real soon.

Best of British
Rob Holland
grassyars@hotmail.com



East Anglia

Here we go yet again then. The first meeting of the year took

place at Rushmere Golf Club in early April. The first thing I will say is that the course wasn't good, it was brilliant and I don't care what time of year it was. A well deserved pat on the back (no pun intended) was in order for Pat Swinn and his team.

The trophy hunters were as follows:

As there were not many single figures playing, only two prizes were presented.

0-9 Handicap. Peter Howard, 35pts; 2. Michael Buck, 34pts. 10 - 18 Handicap. 1. Richard Hurn, AKA Nodzy (Don't ask), 44pts; 2. Ben Pearson, 39pts; 3. Mark Clements, 35pts. 19 - 28 Handicap. 1. Bob Tawell, 38pts; 2. Steve Freestone, 38pts OCB; 3. Craig Cameron, 34pts.

G & T. 1. Steve Auld, CPT, 39pts; 2. Jim Starbuck, 36pts; 3. Eddie Jack, 35pts. Nearest the Pin. 8th. Robert Ransome. 14th. Michael Buck. Longest Drive. 7th, Alan Elliot. 18th, Michael Buck.

The Loo Seat was presented to Bob Tawell for hitting a tree 100 yards in front of him and the ball finishing 20 yards behind him after sending four people diving for cover! Bob is also the Manager of Rushmere.

The prizes were presented by Mark Bartram the main sponsor, and Steve Auld, the Club Captain.

Other trade members and loyal supporters were: Aitkens, John Deere, Symbio, Toro, Scotts, Ernest Doe, Tacit, Rigby Taylor and Baileys of Norfolk.

Once again, thank you Rushmere for a super day. Last time I played there, Wally Mann was Head Greenkeeper. I hope it's not as long till the next time.

We must also thank Ian Willett for organising our band of brothers, and Colin Rushbrook for tirelessly sorting out venues on our behalf.

Mick Lathrope



Essex

Another quiet month in the Section.

Sorry to everyone who took the trouble to enter, for having to cancel the scheduled Spring Trophy to be held at Forrester

Park Golf & Country Club, on May 5. The entries were very poor when the closing date arrived, so to be fair to the club the decision was made to cancel the event. We suspect the poor entry could have been due to the abundance of Bank Holidays at that time.

We would like to thank Forrester Park Golf Club and Course Manager, Roland Hughes, for being so understanding and allowing us to cancel at such a late stage.

Section Knockout Trophy: The first round of the Knockout must be completed before Wednesday, June 22, which is our next golf day at Nazeing Golf Club. Entry forms are on line or in the fixture book.

The draw for the next round will take place on that day!

The following matches are on the website along with the shots you get per team.

Home team to arrange the match. Match 1 - Played at Colchester Golf Club. Sam Cook and Craig Serafin vs Andy Cracknell and Neil Peachey; Match 2 - Played at Bentley Golf Club. Stephen Adams and Nick Thompson vs Richard Hare and Ben Scrivener; Match 3 -

Played at Three Rivers Golf and Country Club. Barry Mann and Sam Anderson vs Mark Stopps and Mark Keysall; Match 4 - Played at Stoke By Nayland Golf Club. Liam Springett and Liam Close vs Ollie Homewood and Dan Crow; Match 5 - Played Upminster Golf Club. Dougie Fernie and Paul O'Kane vs Tom Smith and Anthony Kirwan; Match 6 - Played Thorndon Park Golf Club. Rob George and Jeff Taylor vs Andy Darnell and Lee Stephens; Match 7 - Played Romford Golf Club Ian Wood and Mark Severn vs Sam Farrow and Craig Campbell BYES - In the draw for round 2

Stewart Rogers and Steve Cousins

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

Arnold Phipps-Jones



BIGGA Regional Conferences

All forthcoming conferences are as follows...

REGION	DATE	LOCATION	CONTACT
South East	16 November 2011	Stock Brook Manor Golf Club, Essex	Clive Osgood, RA, 01737 819343
South West & South East	17 November 2011	Oaktree Arena, Highbridge, Somerset	Jane Jones, RA, 01454 270850
Scotland	6 March 2012	Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline	Peter Boyd, RA, 0141 616 3440

