

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

Well it's mid-March and the temperatures are improving, birds singing and grass is growing. Unfortunately the winds are blowing and the bunker sand is moving. Still, the new season is approaching with earnest and let's hope for a good one. Talking with Richard Windows last week at the Scottish Conference, he mentioned that East Lothian had been hit hard with the dreaded Fusarium. North Berwick has got off lightly with small areas visible although they are responding to treatment and the dry weather helps.

We have two new additions to our small Section committee, Scott Corrigan and George Oliver will be helping us at the Spring Outing at Craigiellaw on April 19. We welcome them both. Tam Murray has left us and he will be missed greatly at committee level, his experience was vast and our thanks and best wishes go out to him. Scott will take over as education convener and you can contact him at scottcorrigan4@aol.com

Keith Burgon is on the move and takes over at The Hirsell, near Coldstream. Good luck and all the best Keith.

Dates for your diary are:

Secretaries' Match, May 3, Glasgow Gailes;

Scottish Tournament, June 15, Dukes Course;

Willie Woods Tournament, August 9, Mortonhall GC;

Autumn Tournament, September 14, Braid Hills GC.

Good luck to you all at Craigiellaw and anyone with news can contact s.crawford@live.co.uk

Yours in golf

Stewart Crawford



Central

The rules night seminar held at Elmwood on March 9 was well supported and Grant Moir, of the R&A, gave an excellent presentation. A more detailed report on the night is on the website www.biggacentralsection.org.uk. You will also find the results of the Spring Outing, at Ladybank, held on April 28, on the website as the deadline for this report was well before the event and a report on the Stan Zontek seminar which was held on April 21. The final of the inter club pairs for 2010 was finally completed and Crieff were the winners over Leven by 1 hole over the two legs. Well done to them (eventually).

This year there is a new format which you should all have been notified about. At the time of writing this there was a healthy entry and by now those who entered should have received word of the draw/1st round. The final seminar before summer is a presentation by Adam Pound, of Tillers Turf, scheduled for 7pm, on May 11, at the training room, Elmwood College. Again more details on www.biggacentralsection.org.uk. On the move is Paul Armour, who has left Leven Links to take up the position of Head Greenkeeper at Lochgelly GC. Our best wishes go to Paul.



Ayrshire

It is with great regret that I inform you all of the recent passing of Danny Gardiner, of Beith Golf Club. Danny was the club's first full time green-

keeper worked extremely hard at a time when Beith was only nine holes, Danny saw the club he loved grow into an 18 hole course one to test the very best of golfers among us. In my own time at Beith, where I served as apprentice greenkeeper, I spoke with Danny on a number of occasions and what I can say is that he was a true gentleman. Danny will be missed by all at Beith. Our thoughts are with his family and friends at this time.

Things have been looking good on the weather front these days with the daffys in full bloom and the sun streaming down on us all. The courses all around are beginning to take shape all thanks to the lads involved. Keep up the good work! I've not heard of any mishaps or horror stories. Time yet. Next month will bring the results from the Spring Outing and of course as mentioned every issue I remind you that this is your Section, so please get in touch with any news. Let's keep the Section going. Til next time... Cheers.

John Mair

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West

On this bright sunny day I sit to type the monthly article enjoying the warmth and benefits such a day provides. I'm looking forward to the future growth induced by these higher than normal temperatures, already I've noticed the hedgerows starting to bud; a sure sign spring has sprung.

Let's hope the start of the season continues in the same vein as the last month, as my early disease scars are now filling in very nicely surprisingly enough. I hope all those affected

in the same way are seeing progress in this area.

Not a lot happening in the last few weeks other than the seminar at Loch Lomond held on March 23. This proved to be a very informative excursion, with the continued update on developments in relation to measurements of organic matter, firmness, soil moisture, speed and smoothness.

STRI is to be praised on the content of the day's discussions, the presentation of the material, and the venue. In attendance something in the region of 40 people enjoyed the day's proceedings with a good diversity of the industry present, and nice to see a few different faces.

Thanks to Loch Lomond Golf Club for allowing the day's events to go ahead and for providing the soup and sandwiches.

Just a few events to bring to your attention: The Spring Outing at Cowglen Golf Club, on May 19, entries will be posted soon, thanks to Michael Slack for accommodating the Section, and the other item is the Scottish national event at the Duke's Course in St Andrews, on June 15.

The annual match against the secretaries is scheduled for the May 3, at Glasgow Golf Club, Gailes and I will report on how that went in the next issue.

Finally on a very sad note I have to announce the sudden death of Ian McMillan, who was a very well kent face in green-keeping circles over the years. Ian, of course, was the son of Jack McMillan, now retired, and at this time the Section wishes to express our deepest sympathies to him, his wife and all his brothers for their loss.

Another bereavement in the Section with the passing of Sid Adam, of Hamilton Golf Club who died in his sleep recently. Sid was only 39 years old and leaves a wife and two children. Our thoughts are with them at this difficult time.

Please pass on any interesting

facts or events which might be of interest to others around the country as it's quite surprising who reads the snippets.

My Email is stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com or my mobile is 07790823914, or the landline is 0141-942-5554.

Stuart Taylor

Northern Region



Northern

Hello everyone hope you are all well. As I sit here writing these notes looking out on a grey sky and hoping we might get a shower of rain to water our newly turfed areas. It seems such a short time ago we were sick of wearing wellies and waterproof trousers. By the time you read these notes I hope to have seen some of you at our spring golf at the K.P. Club. Our next fixture is at Moortown GC on the June 22, 1st tee 10am. The price is £20 per person. Please book early as places might be limited. Sorry there is no more news or gossip this month, if you have any please pass it on to me, Frank Stewart: 72 West Park Grove, Roundhay, LS8 2DY. Email frankstewart3@hotmail.co.uk. Mob: 07947401278.



North West

As we spring into summer, our attentions are now onto cutting frequencies as the growth is now with us and we are all hoping for a favourable season. April started off warm and dry here in Southport and the thought of watering some of the turf laid later than wanted was saved by a few heavy showers, Augusta has come and gone and with that the usual Augusta comments.

The spring tournament was held at Hesketh and as the event has not taken place as I write this I'm gonna guess. The weather was extremely wet but the course just managed to stand up against all the rain, the wind was also present and many found it difficult to walk down 6 and 7. The course itself was passable, apart from the

rain, the crazy pin positions and the lack of growth on the greens, but all in all it was a good day and it was nice to see everyone at Hesketh. Thanks to the Members and Council of Hesketh for allowing us to play.

The next event this year is the NW v N. Wales match at Heaton Moor GC on June 16. This is followed by the summer tournament at Grange Park on June 29.

On behalf of the North West Section, I would like to pass on the condolences to the family of Ian McMillan who passed away early April, Ian was known to many people in the North West and our thoughts and prayers are with his loved ones.

Peter McVicar
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North Wales

I hope I find you all suitably rested after extraordinary amount of bank holidays we've had recently. Spring is now well and truly here with good growth and, hopefully, if we get the weather to deal with it our courses should shine.

The spring tournament took place at Denbigh Golf Club on April 13. A full run down on results and the day will be posted in next month's column.

Elliott Small has been tasked with assisting BIGGA with putting on a display at BTME 2012 on 100 Years of Greenkeeping Associations. So we need to gather and collate as much information and materials towards the display and we have been asked to make enquiries where possible from some of the older members of our Section, whether they may know of any even older guys who may have old photos, magazines, diaries etc. One of the areas that we would hope to show would be greenkeeping families who may have generations of greenkeeping in them, so if you think you or your families can help please contact any of your committee members and we will happily pass anything on.

Terry Adamson, of Sheriff Amenity, is holding talunex/phostoxin training seminars in the near future. If you think you could use this please contact Terry directly. I think that's

about enough for now, I'm looking forward to hearing from you and about your personal or professional news, feel free to contact me I'm only too willing to put your good news into our column.

Pete Maybury
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or mobile 07756001187.



North East

This month's news is all about movement within the Section. Firstly Craig Parkinson, of Slaley Hall and former Course Manager and Director of Golf at Matfen Hall, has rejoined the rank of Course Manager at Diamond Country Club in Vienna, Austria. The course currently holds The Austrian Open and is on the European Tour. Working alongside Craig is also another former greenkeeper of Slaley Hall, Gerry Clancy.

In these times of uncertainty surrounding our industry it's good to hear a positive news story of one of our members who had lost his job due to financial

constraints affecting his club.

Tony McLure, who will be familiar to most in the North East, was formerly a Head Greenkeeper before falling to the axe of redundancy. He has taken the positive step in setting up his business supplying various products to golf clubs.

TM Amenities Ltd was established by Tony in March 2011 selling a varied range of products, on an agency basis, direct to the golf industry and these are some of the companies he represents: Parsaver Golf - All aspects of course furniture score cards etc; Turf Care Supplies - Equipment contract hire, Air-Seal Products, ASL Agronomic, Northern Lubricants - Waste oil removal.

Tony is working hard to establish his company in the market place and his office is now his car as he trawls around the north-east in search of business. He is contacting Club Secretaries and Head Greenkeepers to arrange to meet with them to outline in more detail the cost saving benefits he can bring to your club. When you hear from Tony please try to give him some of your time to listen to what he has to offer.

Following 20 years in the business, much of which in the capacity as a Head Greenkeeper,

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Around The Green

Tony brings with him a high level of experience and professional knowledge to recommend and endorse the products he sells.

We wish Tony all the best in his venture and hope that he continues to show that there is definitely life after redundancy. And finally, those of you that don't know that the new course which has been constructed over the last two years, at Close House, opened on May 1.

Jimmy Richardson

Midland Region



East of England

Our re-arranged Christmas fixture was played on Thursday March 10 at Sleaford Golf Club. A good turnout of around 30 players did battle against the wind which did take some of the shine off what was an excellently presented golf course by Ian Batty and his staff. The day was sponsored jointly by Rigby Taylor and Mansfield Sands, who once again provided an excellent prize table.

The winners on the day were as follows: 1. Graeme Macdonald; 2. Bryan Robinson; 3. Steve Hopkins; 4. Ian Batty; 5. Rob Bemment.

Nearest the Pins: Graeme Macdonald and Robin Portess. Longest Drive: Rob Bemment.

Once again many thanks to all at Sleaford Golf Club for their hospitality and to the sponsors for their continuing support.

Our Section Seminar was this year held in conjunction with the Midland Region Seminar at Newark Golf Club on Wednesday March 30. The day was based around the headline 'Weather it's Ecologically Sound' and included presentations from Mark Hunt, Headland Amenity; Dr Keith Duff, golf environment consultant, and Ben Taylor, Bernhard & Co. The day was well supported and thanks go to Newark Golf Club for their hospitality.

Our golf fixtures for the year have now been finalised, they are as follows:

Wednesday, May 25 1pm, Immingham Golf Club; Thursday, July 28, 1pm, Stoke Rochford Golf Club; Thursday, August 25, 1pm, Boston Golf

Club vs Secretaries; Wednesday, September 14, Gainsborough vs Trade; Wednesday, October 12, Orton Meadows AGM; Thursday, December 8, Belton Park Christmas fixture.

As detailed above the next golf day is here at Immingham Golf Club on Wednesday, May 25 tee off 1pm. The day will be sponsored by LMS Lincoln. If anyone would like to play on this day then please contact Bruce Hicks.

Steve Beverly, Immingham Golf Club.



East Midlands

Straight into news from our spring competition and first part of the BIGGA National Championship Qualifier, the event was played at the Nottinghamshire Golf and Country Club, the course was in excellent condition and many thanks go to Pete Billings, and his team. Results were as follows: trade winner was Kevin Haslam, with 30 pts; Cat 1 winner Chris Brown, with 33 pts and Cat 2; and overall winner with 35 pts, was Pete Smith. Other prize winners included Derek McJannet with Nearest the Pin, and Pete Billings with the Longest Drive. Longest Drive for trade was Kevin Kinser and a poor effort saw none of the trade hit the green for the Nearest the Pin!

Thanks to the sponsors for the day which were Aitkens, Tacit, Mansfield Sand, Barenburg and Sports Metals. Without these sponsors these golf days would not be possible, thank you all for your continued support.

On to more important news now, and it is important to all members of the East Midlands Section that you realise that without any more volunteers for the committee, this Section will close at the next AGM. Greg Skinner has stepped down due to work and personal reasons, and I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank him for his efforts on the Section committee. However this leaves just myself and Andy De Wet on the committee, WE CANT RUN THE SECTION with a committee of two greenkeepers! Being a member of the committee only entails approx six meetings a

year and attendance at most events. The events we put on are for your benefit and, as I have mentioned, without any more help the Section will cease to run after the AGM, anyone interested in helping out should contact myself at pds1@btinternet.com or Andy De Wet at biggaeastmidlands@hotmail.co.uk

The next Section event and second part of the National Qualifiers is to be held at Cavendish GC on Wednesday, June 29. I know this may be a long journey for some but it is a venue that is well worth the trip, I hope to see you all there.

Pete Smith



Midland

As I sit here writing yet another stunning edition of our Section's notes, I gaze out of my window and give thanks that finally spring/summer is here at last. This, of course, means the return of the many varied blooming flora and fauna that we are blessed to see on a daily basis. However, a sight I recently experienced at some unearthly hour on a Sunday morning while mowing the greens, reminds me of that somewhat eccentric etiquette reserved to only those fools that are away from their cots at such an early hour. I could not help but sight an RAF transport aeroplane flying towards me at an altitude of approximately 400ft, as I gazed up in amazement at the fact that something so large could be airborne and travelling so slowly, it banked towards me to see what this fool was doing on a little red mower at such an hour, I then raised my arm as a "good morning" gesture and to my amazement the pilot then tipped his wings a couple of times in reply. That's one cool way to say good morning, it made mine, but then simple things please simple minds.

Now, what is it about starting up irrigation systems every spring that always seems to throw-up some form of problem that requires the investigative skills of Holmes and Watson? However, we always seem to manage it by hook or by crook,

and remember that "no problem can stand the constant assault of thought", coupled with a little help from our friendly irrigation specialists. One such being this month's kind calendar sponsor North Staffs Irrigation Ltd. Please visit their web site: www.northstaffsirrigation.co.uk. I dare say that they have a Sherlock for the case.

Sean McDade

South West and South Wales



South West

Hi everyone, I trust that you are all well and enjoying this mighty fine weather that is finally with us. Firstly, please allow me to explain the error that was in last month's events section. The incorrect date was in relation to your AM-AM competition, at Chipping Sodbury GC. The correct date would have been Thursday, April 14, (By the time you read this we would have already played). Apologies for any confusion that this may have caused!

What a great seminar we had at Chipping Sodbury this past month. Working closing with our friends GCMA (Golf Course Managers Association) we held an educational seminar which was very well supported by both secretary managers and course/deputy managers, or the ins and outs of a golf course as I like to call them. Titled 'In Touch', the day was a great success. In the first session I followed STRI, and enjoyed a very exciting presentation by Richard Windows. Showing us a huge range of tools and how we can all get the very best out of our greens. Course Manager, John Keenaghan, very bravely allowed STRI to invade his putting green to show us the wide range of tools they use to carry out their tests. The tests are used to help us improve the playing qualities which, in turn allow us the increase the playing season. When all is said and done, we (as golfers) want outstanding performing greens at a consistent level.

The seminar also included a detailed presentation from

health and safety advisor Jon Allbut. Jon explained to us the importance of a golf buggy policy and how improving the access for disabled members is now important within golf course development. An impressive presentation was given by Jim McKenzie, Course and Estates Manager, at Celtic Manor. I'm sure that many of you would have already seen a Jim McKenzie presentation, however this was my first one and it was great to see the how the Ryder Cup was really won. An inside look at the at the 2010 course...IMPRESSIVE!

Away from the golf course, the football season is coming to a close and in the premiership, for once, there is everything to play for at both ends of the table, could this be the most exciting season...My predictions for the title are 1- Man Utd, 2- Arsenal, 3- Chelsea, 4- Man City? Who goes down...West Ham, Blackpool, and Wigan??? What do you think??

I would like to thank our patronage partners for all of their support for 2011: Ecosol, Irritech Limited, Countrywide, British Seed House, Headland, Avoncrop and 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 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.

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South Wales

Firstly, I have details of the Section's golf fixtures for the year. Thanks to Steve Chappell for providing me with this information.

The fixtures are as follows:

Spring Competition: Glynthir Golf Club, Thursday May 12, sponsored by DEAL and Textron.

Summer Competition: Wenvoe Castle GC, Wednes-

day July 6, sponsored by Tacit; Autumn Competition: Trefloyne GC, Friday, October 14, sponsored by DEAL and Textron; Christmas Competition: Royal Porthcawl, date and sponsors TBC.

Match v South West: Chippenham GC, Friday, August 12, sponsored by Inscapes;

Match v GCMA: Neath GC, Thursday, August 25, sponsored by CWC.

Rigby Taylor Qualifier: Neath GC, Thursday, June 16.

Golf Management Trophy: Morryston GC, Wednesday, June 29, sponsored by Tacit.

Obviously, you will be notified of any changes to the dates above. Thanks in advance to the sponsors; the Section would be difficult to run without your help.

Thanks to all those who attended Jim McKenzie's Ryder Cup talk at Pencoed College back in March. The attendance was good and attendees were treated to a first class presentation. Thanks Jim!

Good Luck to John Phillips, Head Greenkeeper at St David's City GC, on his forthcoming retirement.

Finally, this will be my last 'Around the Green'. Over the last two and a half years I have written 30 columns! So I think it's a nice round number to end on and about time that someone else is given a chance! And preferably a greenkeeper! I have really enjoyed the experience and hope that my efforts have helped out the section that I have been proud to have been a member since the late eighties. Thanks for all the complimentary words about the column that I received while 'on my rounds', they were greatly appreciated!

Right! That's it from me! Hopefully I will see you soon, maybe at one of the above golf events where I will prove that my golf is as bad as my jokes!

Ceri Richards



Devon and Cornwall

Hello all,

Our March meeting was held at Merlin Golf Club, North Cornwall. 30+ attendees

enjoyed a cracking day. Richard Gerrard, Course Manager, led a course walk around this relatively new course which was in fantastic condition. The Golf competition was won by Anthony James (Jacko), from Killiow GC, receiving the "Bayer Cup", 2. Andrew Prouse, from Porthpean; 3. Mike Ellis, from Lake View GC. Both Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive were won by Mike Ellis too! Many thanks to our two sponsors for the day: Bayer and Famura. The afternoon educational speaker was Mark Hunt, from Headland Amenity. For those of you that know Mark would know that the attendees were given an expert and very professional presentation by someone who is extremely passionate about our industry. The feedback we have had from this presentation has been glowing. Many thanks to Mark for making the journey and taking time out of his busy schedule to deliver the presentation. A big thank you to Richard Gerrard, and everyone at Merlin GC, for their wonderful hospitality.

John Mitchell, of Perranporth GC, has retired after 47 years at the club. John started working at Perranporth GC in 1961 although he left again in 1973 for a job at the clay pits for a lot more money, enabling him to buy his house and get married. He returned again in 1976 at the request of the club when his brother, Billy Mitchell broke his right leg fib & tib, with an equivalent salary to which the clay pits paid him. He finally retired in March having worked with his brother for 47 years. An amazing achievement. For those of you who know Billy and John down at Perranporth, you will know that they are both fully deserving of all accolades and tributes they receive. The Club held a retirement party for John on Friday, April 1, and presented him with a golf bag & honorary life membership. An excellent evening, the bar took nearly a thousand pounds which more than paid for the food they put on. Keith Kemp, West Cornwall, and Scott Gibson, St Enodoc, attended the evening to represent the industry. Well done John, we hope to still see you at forthcoming meetings and we hope you really enjoy your well-deserved retirement.

Our next meeting will be

Assistant Profile

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



Name:

Gary Fraser

Age: 31

Club: Rockcliffe Hall

Position: Qualified Assistant

1. How long have you been greenkeeping?

Eight Years

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

Working outdoors and being involved in golf

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

Still in the Armed Forces

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

Particularly enjoy pedestrian mowing – but all aspects of the job really

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

Any tree work

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

Education

7. Hobbies?

Golf and Football

8. Favourite Band?

Foo Fighters

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

Inverness Caledonian Thistle

10. What is your claim to fame?

Worked on a number of pro tournaments

Around The Green

our summer 'Devon v Cornwall' match at Dartmouth G&CC on Wednesday, June 15. Full details will be posted on the main BIGGA website and invites will be sent out to members during May.

George Pitts
Section Secretary
BIGGA Devon & Cornwall
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Kent

I do apologise for not writing this editorial for the last couple of months, I've had a few major changes going on in my own life which have been, ultimately, very rewarding but very hectic and stressful. Yes, after nearly 15 years of service and devotion to Birchwood and making it the successful and thriving business that it is, I have moved on to other ventures which I am hoping be equally rewarding.

I would like to express my thanks to all my fellow, learned professionals who have offered support for me while I made the transition to my new career. I have not left the industry, however, just exploring a new avenue where I'm hoping the grass will be greener! More details to follow.

On to news from the rest of the Kent Section. We recently enjoyed one of the best golf days I believe we have ever had. On March 16 a strong contingent of us left the thick fog that covered most of the region on that morning and headed for the coast at Lydd Golf Club where we were greeted by bright, benign conditions and genial hostess, Irene. The course, despite some fairly major remodelling of the back nine, was a joy to play. The early starters definitely enjoyed the best of the conditions as a stiff breeze began to blow late into the round compounding this author's attempts to make it onto the leaderboard. I really hope we can re-visit this great course again in few years in order for me to do it more justice! Results were as follows: 1. Darren Burton, 37 pts; 2. Duncan Kelso, 36 pts; 3. Steve Gunner, 35 pts. Longest Drive was by Darren Child and Nearest Pin by Eric Green.

Sincere thanks to all who made this most enjoyable of days.

We are now looking forward to our next event which shall be played on May 26 at Knole Park Golf Club, near Sevenoaks. Good luck to host Course Manager, Gavin Kyle, in preparing for his peers and if you can arrange a decent bit of weather mate that would be great! We are also still collating teams for our Summer Pairs Knockout. This will be running throughout the summer months (obviously) and will be in place of our usual mid-season golf day which always conflicted with people's holidays. If you have not already entered and wish to do so with a fellow greenkeeper, then call me or Kev asap as we shall do the draw for the first round of matches at Knole Park.

Many thanks to all those companies who have pledged their support to our Section again this year. Your names are proudly displayed on our website with a link to your home pages.

One important additional I would like to make here is the sadness that I'm sure many of us felt when we heard of the sudden passing of Ian McMillan recently. I had known Ian for many years having worked with his brother, Bobby, for seven years at the outset of my career.

His outstanding work at Hankley Common and Walton Heath shall be a lasting legacy to his ultimate professionalism. Our thoughts are with his family at this most difficult of times.

Rob Holland
www.kentgreenkeepers.com



Surrey

It was with great shock and sadness that we all learned of the death of Ian McMillan.

To try and write about Ian is one of the hardest things to do. How do you put into words how highly he was thought of by his peers, his popularity with members of all the clubs he worked at over the years, his great sense of humour, his laugh when he caused a bit of mischief or just the pleasure of having a chat over a pint.

Ian was far more than just a golf course manager, his professionalism, unbridled passion and enthusiasm were obvious

to everyone who came in contact with him and he willingly gave his time sharing his vast knowledge with others. He was a mentor, colleague and a loyal friend to many and was held in the highest esteem in the industry and beyond. We both had the privilege of becoming friends with him when we became Ian's deputies at Hankley Common Golf Club. For us it was a beautiful relationship that lasted over 20 years.

Moving to a new area to take up a job can be daunting but moving to Hankley to work with Ian you became part of his extended family. He and Karen went out of their way to make you and your family feel at home.

Working with Ian was easy to say the least. We all worked hard and played hard which made our greenkeeping days fun. I think we all have a story to tell of a time when we were in Ian's company and could probably fill the whole month's magazine.

Many young greenkeepers trained under Ian and fair to say that everyone who he had under his wing went on to be successful in their own right.

Ian was never happier than when preparing for one of the prestigious events his clubs hosted, including many British Open Regional Qualifiers, US Open Qualifiers and many other major amateur events. The list stands testament to his expertise in this area. He was also first to offer help to other course managers in their preparation, volunteering at Augusta for the US Masters, Kingsbarns for the Dunhill Cup, Royal County Down for the Walker Cup to name but a few. I'm sure many of you will, like us, have great memories of working alongside him and several tales to tell.

Our thoughts are with Ian's wife Karen, children Callum, Hannah, Daniel and other members of the McMillan Family.

Farewell good friend! You will never be forgotten.

Gareth Roberts and Jim Russell.



Essex

We ran a one day first aid course at The Burstead Golf

Club on April 5, a very successful day which was well attended. Further dates are to be arranged for this course.

We are also looking to run other one day courses, so if you have any ideas or you need a specific course, then please contact Ian Wood our Education Officer by email: ian.wood@romfordgolfclub.co.uk

The new golf season starts at Forrester Park, Thursday, May 5 for the Spring Trophy.

Please come out to support the Essex Team at our football match against the Sussex Section on Monday, May 23 at Upton Park. Home to West Ham United Football Club. Kick off is at 2pm sponsored by Toro.

This should be a nice afternoon out to support the boys and savour the atmosphere of a Premiership Stadium.

We have been lucky to attract eight new sponsors this year and along with some of last year's sponsors, we now have 28 sponsors for the coming season.

We are hoping to intensify our education programme as a result of this.

Many thanks to our 2011 sponsors: Amenity Technology; Bailey's of Norfolk; Banks Amenity Products; Blade Amenity; CMW Equipment Ltd; Collier Turf Care; Ernest Doe & Sons; GM Amenity; Golf Mats UK; Headland Amenity Products; Irrigation & Water; Limagrain UK; Old Forge Mowers; Ottery College; Paynes Turf; Philip Liverton Ltd; P Tuckwell Ltd; Premier Plan; Prime Irrigation; Rainbird Europe; Rigby Taylor Ltd; Scotts Professional; Sheriff Amenity; Town & Country Turf Ltd; Sea Nymph Chaingreen; Tey Farm Systems; WJ Green Ltd and Writtle College.

The Essex Section would like to thank all of the above for their support.

Our New Look website is now running and I hope you have all taken the opportunity to have a look; any comments on the content or things you think should be added, then please contact me at the email address below.

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
Press Officer & Web Master