

## Section Notes

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

All the latest news from your Section

# Around The Green



## Scotland



### East

I missed last month's news but here is the next issue.

Well, as I write August is over and we may wonder if we have had a summer of any kind. The links at North Berwick have never been so green for so long, the white dormant colour that is authentic links, has never even looked like materialising - so no dry patch on the greens.

Anyway, here is the winners of the Willie Wood's Tournament which was held on August 8, at Mortonhall Golf Club. A great day was had by all and the weather was very kind to those who played. The following day was torrential rain, which hit the Lothians pretty hard.

Winners were the favourites, my good friend, and Celtic fan, Shaun Cunningham and Colin McArthur, Mortonhall Golf Club, with a 58 better ball. Yes 58, you read correctly! The runners-up were Pat Allan, Symbio, and Derek Scott, Scoonie. Longest Drive was Andrew Tillie, Mortonhall, and the Nearest the Pin was Dougie Archibald, Thomas Sherriffs. A total of 34 played on the day and we were joined by our Scottish National Chairman, Stuart Taylor, who also enjoyed the day.

A big thank you to David Fraser, Course Manager, and his staff for the quality of the course, and thanks also to the Captain and Council of Mortonhall for courtesy of the course. My guess is that the last time we attended Mortonhall GC could have been 1980 or 81. However we will be back next year as confirmation has been received. Thanks guys.

Stewart Crawford



### West

Sorry for not submitting something last month but it was due to a typing error that I sent the 2010 article to head office instead of the 2011 version. There really wasn't a great deal to report other than the Spring outing held at Cowglen Golf Club on May 19, which, surprisingly, experienced a lovely sunny day, unlike many of the other days in that month.

The course was in excellent condition for the time of year after all the difficulties and for that I would thank Michael Slack and his team for their efforts and the Council for allowing the Section to play the course.

The results were as follows Scratch Prize. A. Reid, Williamwood, 74, 1st Class. 1. D. Mackintosh, Cathkin Braes, 32 pts; 2. J. Brown, Bearsden, 31 pts; 3. G. Bruen, Williamwood, 30 pts. 2nd Class. 1. M. Slack, Cowglen, 34 pts; 2. B. Sommerville, Helensburgh, 27 pts B.I.H; 3. D. McBride, Vale of Leven, 27 pts; 3rd Class. 1. D. Reid, Lenzie, 32 points; 2. C. Boyd, Helensburgh, 15 pts; 3. S. Reid, East Kilbride, 14 pts, Apprentice Prize. A. Orr 27 pts, Trade Prize, as usual, D. Duthie, Aitkens.

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

A wee match has been arranged for the North of the river verses the South, which I will report on at a later stage.

The intention was to contact a few people who haven't been attending things over the last years with the idea of socialising and get together for a chat about different aspects. If you wish to be involved then give me a call on 07790823914 or contact Gerry Bruen on the blog and we can include you.

The Scottish National Tournament was held at The Duke's course on June 15, which had an excellent turn out of 70 to play a reformed course which proved to be a great test of golf. Congratulations to Derek Robson and his staff and thanks also to the in-house staff, along with the administrative staff for all their assistance in helping to make a successful day. As usual Peter Boyd organised everything in a first class manner with the assistance of Andy O'Hara, the Vice Chairman, I am much obliged to both of them for all their work.

I played at the East Section Willie Wood tournament over Mortonhall Golf Club in August and was very pleased with my first experience of the course, the layout created a variety of interest and tested the golfing ability by altering the club selection throughout. The course condition couldn't be faulted absolutely first class, congratulations to David Fraser and his staff for the course presentation. May I extend a well done to two of his staff members for retaining the trophy meaning I will be back next year, this time I might even have a partner.

The Everris Seminar held at Hampden in August turned out to be very informative with information about new pests in turf, growth regulator rates of application, new fungicide treatments, and over-seeding practices. I don't know the full figures of attendees but there looked to be somewhere around 50 turn up to enjoy the talks and then a guided tour of the stadium. Well done to all involved

for a very enjoyable day.

The Norrie Whytock Trophy, held at Auchterarder, was represented by myself, Cecil George (retired), David Reid, Lenzie, and Stuart Cameron, Loch Lomond. On the day we finished in third place out of five teams on 88 points which apparently in the past has won this event but nowadays 104 is the winning total.

Well done to the North Section for a fantastic score and hard lines Central Section (103). Thanks to Archie Dunn and his staff for producing a beautiful golf course in excellent condition considering all the recent rain. I like the improvements to the course Archie and was interested to see the sleeper-faced bunker which I landed in. And no, I didn't get up and down. The whole course has improved over the years and well done to you and your staff.

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

Stuart Taylor



### Central

The Section AGM will be held at the Training room at Elmwood College, on October 26, at 2pm and will be preceded by a presentation from Cale Bigelow at 1pm.

Cale is a professor at Purdue University in the USA and is currently over studying at St Andrews University for one semester. He will give a talk on soil science and biology.

Congratulations to Jon Wood, the Deputy on the Old Course,

who leaves to take up the position of Course Manager at Trevoise.

Also a warm welcome to the Section to Steve Chappell who has taken over as Course Manager at The PGA Centenary Course, at Gleneagles, in preparation for the Ryder Cup in 2014. The Section had a great outing at Kingsbarns on 14 September and the results/prizewinners are on the website, [www.biggacentralsection.org.uk](http://www.biggacentralsection.org.uk)

Thanks to Kingsbarns Golf Links for hosting us, Innes Knight and his team for the preparation of the golf course - a much harder group to please than those competing in the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship and Sue Hutcheon and her catering team.

Gordon Moir



## North

Sorry for there not being much news last month but there was a bit of a mix up at Headquarters with our report but in the end we did manage to thank Ben Brookes for all his efforts which was the main thing we wanted to get in the magazine. Robert and myself are still finding our feet with the Section news report but here goes. We would like to start by saying congratulations to the North Section team for winning the Norrie Whytock Trophy at Auchterarder on August 17.

In what was a very close match the team on the day was Captain and Committee regular Ross Macrae, of Newmachar, Richard Pirie, also of Newmachar, Dave Middleton, from Deeside, and, last but not least, Jim McCormack, of Kirriemuir. So well done to them all, they all said it was a great day and many thanks to the Tournament Director, Peter Boyd, and to Bayer for their continued support. The Autumn Outing held at Peterculter GC will have been and gone by the time you read this report so all the results will be in the next issue. The Section AGM will be in a few weeks time and it will be held at Longside Golf Club, near Peterhead, on October 20. It will be the same format as before just turn up and pay on the day. The entry

fee is £10 and this will include coffee bacon roll on arrival and soup and sandwiches. Hopefully we will get a good support from the membership. Two of our regular members Brian Hunter and George Simpson have been poorly lately with heart problems both needing a bypass operation. Our thoughts are with them and we wish them both a speedy recovery. If you have any news please get in touch with Chairman Robert Patterson on 07931639548 or Secretary Dale Robertson on 07784517534.

Dale Robertson

## Northern



## Northern

Hello everyone. Hope you are all well. It seems only five minutes ago we had the start of the hot dry spring weather, now looking out over the golf course at the leaves changing colour, and some deciding to fall, autumn is here. On August 31 we held our Invitation Day at Bingley St Ives GC.

The Section's thanks go to the club for allowing courtesy on the course, also Alan and his team for providing a good test of golf. The golf was followed by a fantastic buffet meal, our thanks go to Gary and his staff. The winners on the day were, G. Potter & P. Davies; 2. K. Christie & A. Christie; 3. S. Rothwell & E. Shaw; 4. R. Hayward & S. Smith; 5. P. Rowbottom & T. Calvert. Nearest the Pin - T. Calvert. Nearest the Line - M. Bulmer.

Thanks to everyone for making it a great day, and to Rigby Taylor for sponsoring the day. Congratulations go to Bingley St Ives for winning the Golf Management Trophy Northern Section held at Cookridge Hall GC.

The next Section event is the Christmas golf to be held at Selby GC on Wednesday, December 7. Tee time to be confirmed. That's all for this month, any news or gossip please pass it on to me F. Stewart 72 West Park Grove Roundhay LS8 2DY. mob 07947401278. email [frankstewart3@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:frankstewart3@hotmail.co.uk).

Frank Stewart



## North Wales

I have to apologise for the lack of columns in recent months. There are various reasons for this but I'm not going to bore you with the in's and out's. So let's get on with this month instalment.

There have been a couple of things going on since the last column. First of all the annual North Wales/North West match took place at Heaton Moor GC on June 16 and, with our Section only able to produce a team of five on the day, it seemed we were destined to play only for honour as most of our better players were unable to play that day. However, luckily, Jason Moody and two players from the North West Section played for the North Wales team, making up the sheet as an eight a-side four match game. We were extremely lucky that the day ended with a score of 2-2 and with the match halved and North Wales, as holders, retained the trophy. However, I personally believe we didn't

really deserve it as we showed up as poorly supported as we did. A big thank you goes to Jason Moody, and Amenity Technology, for sponsoring the day and taking as much care of the players as you did. A big thank you also to, Heaton Moor for the fantastic course and great welcome from all at the club.

Secondly, on July 6 a 20/20 cricket match took place at Ashley Cricket Club, I didn't attend this event and I'm afraid the North Wales team got a good thrashing. It's a good job we Welsh don't really count cricket as our first choice sport but a thank you has to go to Nick Gray, and Bathgate's, for organising and sponsoring the event and also to Carl Crocher for putting a team together.

The Autumn Tournament is on our doorstep, this year it is being held at Porthmadog golf club and by the photographs I've seen the course looks an absolute picture and would I'm sure be a beauty to play too! The Northern Region Seminar this year is being split into two venues to encourage attendance, with our Section being covered by Birchwood golf club on November 30, so please try your best to attend with entries at only £15 to members and £20

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to non-members. It's not out of our transport catchments or out of our budgets. Entry forms and seminar details to follow through the post.

Harlech Golf Club held the British Boys' competition in August and it was by all accounts a roaring success so congratulations go to all concerned.

Please feel free to get in touch with your news, personal or club related. I'm only too pleased to know that you're out there reading this column and even more pleased to get input from you.

I think that will do before I bore you to tears, so all the beat until next month

Pete Maybury e-mail [petemayb66@aol.com](mailto:petemayb66@aol.com) text or phone 07756001187



## North East

By the time you have read September's magazine autumn will be upon us and I can just see all those leaves dropping off; frosty mornings and, to top it off, going to and from work in the dark and the start of winter around the corner.

I will not miss that time of the year - out on the course for six continuous weeks of leaf collecting in all weathers. I wish I had a penny for every leaf that was collected, I would have retired long ago.

Right, back on to some news. Unfortunately my roving reporter Mal Lathan, from Hexham GC, has failed to send in his report of the Sunderland/Newcastle Utd derby match so suppose either he will submit it later on or leave it until the return game at St James Park.

Next up we have had new members joining the Section those are as follows: Ross Young, Linden Hall GC; Victor Cox, Percy Wood GC; Thomas Alexander, Parklands GC; Sean Harrison, Close House GC, and Daniel Egan, Bishop Auckland GC.

It's been along time since we have had that many join let's hope it continues as there are a lot of greenkeepers out there still not members, mostly at the corporate clubs.

Tom Snedwin has moved

from Foxhills in Surrey to Hexham GC as an Assistant Greenkeeper. We wish him well in his recent appointment.

Congratulations to Jon Watson, of Burgham Park GC and Myerscough College on reaching the final of the Toro Student of the Year Competition held last month at BIGGA HQ.

Reckon that's the lot for this month.

Jimmy Richardson

## Midland



## East of England

Our latest golf day was the bi-annual match against the Secretaries from the GCMA.

Boston Golf Club was the venue for the match. The course was in excellent condition, possibly due to the fact that Course Manager, Bruce Hicks, was away sunning himself in Portugal!

The result of the match was a 3-3 draw, but as the GCMA were holders then they retained the trophy.

Nearest the Pin was won by Tom Windred; Nearest the Pin in two shots was won by David Dalby.

Many thanks to all at Boston Golf Club for their hospitality; also to Burdens Groundcare for the company's continued support of the Section.

Our next golf day is the annual AGM at Orton Meadows Golf Club on Wednesday, October 12. Tee off is 11am. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please contact Bruce Hicks for further details.

Many thanks.

Steve Beverly  
Immingham Golf Club.



## BB&O

"Summertime and the living is easy, fish are jumping and the cotton is high". And so the song goes!

I can hear you all singing away, strimming and cutting around bunkers, over the hills near and far as the Summer growth ends and the autumn colours kick in. I apologise for not providing a report last month.

As usual, I push the deadline button with Scott, the Editor, to the limit every month in the hope that my journalistic talents will finally be recognised and scoop the biggest story in the history of the BB&O.

But, this time, no excuses, suffice to say, my workload has increased and my area has changed and I will now cover the South East after the retirement of Brain Willmott, a colleague and fellow reporter who I have known for over 20 years.

With this new area to cover I will be passing my ink well and quill to a new scribe and make this my last report for the magazine. "Finally," I hear you say, "at least something good to read - at last."

The BB&O first event of the year, sponsored by Golf & Turf, was at Studley Wood GC, one of Oxfordshire's best kept secrets, and simply a hidden gem set in 177 acres and only a few 7-irons from the centre of Oxford.

Studley Wood GC presented us with a stimulating challenge, as we meandered through beautiful undulating countryside with natural woodland and 13 lakes to navigate and to try to keep the loss of balls to a minimum.

Results were as follows: 1. Ted Lewis, retired, Oakland Park GC; 2. Richard Davies, The Berkshire; 3. Gordon Payne, retired, Maidenhead GC.

Nearest the Pin was won by Dave Goodchild, Ellesborough GC, and Ted Lewis, with Richard Davies whacking a good one to win the Longest Drive.

A big thank you to owner, Ken Heathcote, for looking after us and providing courtesy of the course for the Section; to Tom and Belinda the caterers and to Ian Hodgkinson and greenkeeping team for great playing surfaces which managed to test our skills and produce a worthy winner for the Golf & Turf Cup.

Dave Lyons known as the "Newbury Pussycat" has recently been awarded first prize in a local modern hair stylist competition after using himself as a model. If any member needs help or advice on their "height of cut" Dave can be contacted at

the Deanwood Park Hairdressers.

On August 24 the BB&O National Qualifier Competition was held at Donnington Grove Estate, with its stunning views over Newbury. This classic parkland course is comprised of acres of beautiful parkland with woodland and water hazards that can unnerve the bravest.

The River Lambourn winds its way through the course and this provides an ideal setting and great challenge for the golfer to compete for the Tacit Claret Jug and the great trek up North to the BIGGA National Championship, sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota, at West Lincs GC.

Results were as follows: 1. The Newbury Hairdresser; 2. John Bowness, Hairdresser Assistant at Deanwood Park; 3. Richard Davies The Berkshire, 4. Carl Small, Ellesborough GC, (registered disabled but still playing off 9)

Thanks to Dave Knight and all the Donnington Grove Estate management team who gave the Section courtesy of the course and insured we were looked after very well in and out of the clubhouse.

Dave, and his greenkeeping team, clearly put a huge effort into the course and this made for another great BB&O day out to remember.

I thank the Section for allowing me to be the scribe and representative in the magazine. It has been a privilege writing and serving on the Section committee, where occasional banter and camaraderie from all over the three counties is represented. This truly has been an enjoyable experience and one I know that your replacement, Matt Nutter, East Berks GC, will relish very much.

I thank Peter Larter, Adam King, Sid Arrowsmith and all the committee present and past who have been supportive and a great help in pioneering the section forward over the years and also for choosing the fine Stellenbosch wine which was greatly received and very much appreciated.

Thank you all  
Mark Day



## South East



## East Anglia

I may have said this before, but I'll say it again (one of the privileges of getting old), "If the sun shines on the righteous, why did it rain all day at Weston Park in early August?" Perhaps we are not as good as we thought we were!

Despite the rain, we all had a good day and we could still appreciate the hard work that 'Barney' and his team put in to prepare an excellent course. I always thought his name was Barney (as in Barney Rubble) but after all this time, I found out that his name is actually Mike Barney – sorry mate.

Some of us actually played quite well, even me, as you'll see.

0-9 Handicap; 1. Mike Virley 37 pts; 2. Mike Buck 35 pts; 3. Peter (The Veteran) Howard 34 pts; 0-18 Handicap; 1. Toni Thacker 36 pts; 2. Richard Plummer 35 pts; 3. "The Old Man" Roger Plummer 34 pts; You can never find a 'Plummer' when you want one, then two turn up, just like a London bus.; 19-28 Handicap – Real Golfers; 1. Andy Baker 35 pts; 2. Lyndon Upham (The Welsh Wizard) 31 pts; 3. Mick Lathrope (I've been trying for over 40 years to get 30 points – next time!) 29 pts; Trade & Guests; 1. Mike Fitzgerald 36 pts; 2. Ewart Hughs 35 pts; Greenkeepers Longest Drive: Mike Buck; Greenkeepers Nearest the Pin: Ian Willett; Trade & Guests Longest Drive: Terry Mills; Trade & Guests Nearest the Pin: Glen Smart;

Guess who won the Loo Seat again? You guessed – Ian Willett, but I can't remember what he did to deserve such an honour. Sometimes I think all he's got to do is turn up!

The main sponsors of the day were Ben Burgess, well supported by Aitkens, Scots, Bartram Mowers, Toro and Lymogram.

All prizes were presented by Weston Park Captain, Keith Bowyer and our thanks once again Weston Park for your hospitality and excellent food.

I heard a phrase the other day, I think it was Prime Minister's Question Time! Someone said "Egos and diplomas don't get the work done". I think they were talking about a Green Committee somewhere.

Mick Lathrope



## Sussex

Apologies for not writing previously but we have not really had much news. I resorted to reading Brian Willmott's notes just for entertainment.

Well, what a good day we all had at Piltdown Golf Club. The weather stayed dry; the course was in fantastic condition and the heather looked great (but not so good when we were in it though) and the food and hospitality excellent. Thanks to John and everyone at the Club for making it a special day.

The results were: 1. Steve Vogals, John Cole, David Cole; 2. Eric Green, Glynn Pollard, Stewart Elford; 3. J Sheppard, H Lin, D Welfare. Nearest the Pin. Matt (Homer) Crossley and the Longest Drive. Big hitter, Alex Anderson. Once again, many thanks to our sponsors for the day, Dave Bush and Ernest Doe.

The Mitchell's Groundscare Coarse Fishing match took place recently at Framfield Fishery with 35 anglers and 20 spectators enjoying the fine weather and a barbecue.

It was a great day with everyone catching at least one fish. The winning overall angler was Peter Ray, from Haywards Heath Golf Club, with a nice weight of 72lbs 13oz, second was last year's champion Keith Bean, from Reeds Plant Hire, with 70lbs 0oz and third was Phil, representing Chart Hills Golf Club, with 67lbs 0oz. The amateur section was won by Nick Rouke, from Seaford Golf Club, with 60lbs 2 oz closely followed by Simon Wells, from Pyecombe Golf Club, with 53lbs 13oz and third was Richard, from Pyecombe Golf Club, with 49lbs 9oz. The junior section had four entrants this year with anglers as young as three fishing with their dads. The winner with 51lbs 8oz was Bill

## Assistant Profile

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

Miles Todd, Toro Student of the Year 2011 runner-up, is top dog for this month's Profile...

**Name:**  
Miles Todd

**Age:** 23

**Club:**  
Rhuddlan GC

**Position:**  
Deputy Course Manager

**Nickname:** H (From Steps)



**1. How long have you been greenkeeping?** Seven years

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

**3. If you weren't a greenkeeper what do you think you'd be?** Boy Band Member

**4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?** Presenting the golf course

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

**6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot?** More respect from members regarding the skills that are required to do our job.

**7. Hobbies?** Football, golf mountain biking

**8. Favourite Band?** The Courteeners

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

**10. What is your claim to fame?** None to speak of.

## Midland

Well did you spot the deliberate mistake in last month's notes (deliberate my backside, plain stupid more like) one should spell all ways as always! This error reminded of a comment that Steve "Chopper" Harris relayed to me at one of our past Christmas golf days at South Staffs GC. After general conversation between Steve and I he said that he "always" remembered a tenet I imparted to him as the then Deputy at Harborne. "When you finish a job, just stop and look at what that has been done and say to yourself 'Am I proud?' Then consider how could it have been done better? It doesn't matter whether it's mowing or rebuilding a green."

Steve had obviously been listening, as he then told me the great news that he had just been promoted to Deputy. There can be many rewards within our profession and that was one of them, but also humility can be a great tool by re-teaching us that to which we have taught.

Now we come to our ever-successful Scotts Doubles knockout tournament, which, by the time you read this, the final will have been just contested at the fantastic venue of the West Course at Wentworth.

I shall report the results in next month, but, of course, all are winners. In the preliminary rounds we play the great courses of the Midland Section and then for the lucky four finalists Wentworth, at the grace of Scotts. What's the entry fee? A fiver! Our thanks to Scotts for the company's continued support of our Section, and also for this month's calendar page. For all of their fertiliser and turf maintenance products please visit their web site: [www.scottspromotional.co.uk](http://www.scottspromotional.co.uk) or call Mark Raynor: 07796 192 724.

Right, I must go, bits and bobs to order from the net for my upcoming fishing trip, should only be £20 or so, probably be £320. Boys' toys and all that, what a sucker, it's what we work for though.

Sean McDade.



# Around The Green

Wager. Well done to all those that attended and to a few people who haven't fished for years but now have the bug again.

Plans are in place for the Mitchell's Groundscare Invitation Sea Fishing match to be held in mid December. Though an invitation match, any greenkeepers interested should contact Darren on 07533 476878. Again, it will be a roving match in the Pevensy area. Last year this was won with an impressive weight of 24lbs 10oz. Mitchell's Groundscare has proudly announced their move to new premises in Hailsham with new fully fitted out workshop to service and repair a full range of golf course and grounds care machinery.

Congratulations to Gordon Bell, who leaves Effingham Park Golf Club, for pastures new as Course Manager at Woodcote Park Golf Club in Surrey. Gordon is no stranger to Woodcote as he was one of my assistants there for about eight years. We wish him all the best.

Eric Green  
TheGreens837@aol.com  
Tel: 01424 - 214600



## Kent

October already. Not sure what happened to the summer but as the nights draw in again it's time to put the Hawaiian shirts away and unpack the thermals ready for the onset of winter.

It has certainly been an interesting year. We all know that nobody can second guess what Mother Nature throws at us but experience has taught us all that the key to providing an optimum playing surface at all times is to have the ability to react to changing weather conditions when they occur and understand the consequences of all our actions.

Most of us have accepted now that there is unlikely to be any "normal" years any more. Modern day greenkeeping now is about thinking on your feet and rising to the challenge. One of our notable stalwarts reported to me that he had gone 15 weeks without rain during a period that should have been

considered as springtime. News on TV now reports that we have endured the coldest summer for twenty years. Try and plan your work schedule for next year with those facts in mind!

It certainly makes things difficult when trying to explain to Secretaries and Green's Committees that maintenance weeks' dates cannot be set in stone. Ultimately, our skills in communication and diplomacy are becoming increasingly important to the overall mission of managing our turf.

By the time you read this, our Autumn event at Sittingbourne and Milton Regis Golf Club will have been and gone. Sincere thanks to Dave Horn and the Club for hosting our event, which also included the final of the Summer Pairs Knockout. All results to follow next month or see our website for up to the minute news.

One piece of very noteworthy news is that one of our tour regulars, Darren Burton, of North Foreland Golf Club, has had a very successful season with his clubs as well as his mower. Earlier in the year, Darren was short listed for the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year award. A great achievement on its own I'm sure you will agree but an even bigger highlight of his unprecedented golfing year was undoubtedly being part of the Pairs team which narrowly defeated yours truly and Darren Child in the first round of our Summer Knockout Competition. Spurred on by this monumental victory, Darren decided to try his luck on the Trilby Tour and proceeded to romp home to outright victory in the Sussex qualifier at Goodwood Golf Club. Amongst the 119 also-rans trailing in his wake, Darren defeated last year's Trilby National Champion in a play-off sinking a six foot putt at the last to take the spoils. He has now competed in the televised National Finals which were screened on September 26 on Sky Sports 4 (look out for the repeats).

Even I'm not party to the results at this stage having been told, in no uncertain terms, to watch it on the telly along with everyone else. My report next month will include an as yet undeterminable level of detail to Darren's exploits on TV. Suffice to say, if he wins then I shall continue to wax lyrical about his

mercurial talents. Anything less and, well, he may get a mention in dispatches.

If nothing else, Darren has automatic entry to next year's Trilby Tour having qualified as Sussex Champion. Needless to say, seriously for once, we all offer whole-hearted congratulations to Darren and, reassured, his handicap for our events has been dramatically reduced following the publicity.

Please don't forget that we are in the process of compiling a fixture list for 2013. If you are able to offer to host any of our events then please contact myself or Kev (details on website). If you have any news items that you would like posted here or on web then please do similarly. This is your report for your section. If you want it to include your news then please tell us.

Rob Holland  
www.kentgreenkeepers.com



## Surrey

Monday, September 5 - Being an OAP and semi-retired isn't all bad. It has given me more time to consider where next to go on holiday, cutting the grass can happen any day and I don't have to contend with mums on the school run. The van and stock have gone and my garage is empty for the first time in 21 years. Willmott's International Traders, golf with all the South-East Sections, the Surrey committee and writing this very report are keeping me busy now and in the foreseeable future. Many thanks to you all for your support in the past. My mobile number remains the same, 07879 474038 as does my e-mail, brian.willmott@hotmail.co.uk

So don't be afraid, this gentle and kind old bloke is waiting to serve you - and just like Arkwright I am 'Open all Hours'.

Sunningdale, August 15, was as usual the venue for the McMillan Tankard. It was good to see Jack and Rita McMillan looking well and Jack's comment at the prize giving that the golf course was the best that he has seen it was very true. Well done Murray and his team for the magnificent condition and

the perfect weather. The Longest Drive was driven by Dan Nordsworthy and John Davidson (who?) was Nearest the Pin. The McMillan Tankard went home with Tom Brearley. Tony Bremer was runner-up and Aaron Crittenden was third on countback. Thanks to Roger Tydeman for organising the food and thanks to all those that took home the many odd trays that were left.

By the time this article appears in the October edition, Craig Earnshaw, Course Manager at Oaks Park GC will have hopefully finished his Windsor Half Marathon, while carrying 20lbs. of golf bag and clubs. He estimates a time of under two hours and proceeds will go to the Seve Ballesteros Foundation which carries out research on brain cancer. Should you wish to sponsor, please e-mail Craig on oakpark-greens@crowngolf.co.uk.

Mark Fry has had a movement from The Drift GC to Worplesdon GC where he will be Deputy to that charming and well certified Course Manager, Paul Robinson.

That concludes this month's bits and pieces, except to remind you all that your contributions to this monthly missive are very important and will be given priority at all times unless my latest holiday report is available.

Brian Willmott.



## Essex

Firstly may I, on behalf of the Section, congratulate Andy Cracknell on his appointment to the position of Head Greenkeeper at Frinton Golf Club. Andy leaves Orsett Golf Club after an eight year spell, one year on work placement from Writtle College then three years as an Assistant, when he then moved up to Deputy under the leadership of Don Clarke. We all wish him well in his new position and hope to play at his course in the near future.

This month we announce the speakers at the forthcoming Regional Conference, hosted by us, the Essex Section and to be held at Stock Brook Manor on Wednesday, November 16.

Speakers on the day will be

Darren Baldwin, Tottenham Hotspur Football Club; Peter Craig, The Hurlingham Club; Richard Whyman, Burnham & Berrow Golf Club; Stuart Kerrison, Essex County Cricket Club, and Greg Evans, Ealing Golf Club.

The subject is "Dead or Alive". Section members can come along free of charge, but must pre-register. There is a £10 entrance fee to all non Section members and members from other Sections. Three CPD points are available for attendance.

View our website for more information and an application form. This is a not to be missed event. We have arranged for a good selection of speakers from Golf, Cricket, Tennis and Football to speak about how they look after there veering lengths of grass and how they manage it on a year round basis under the diverse kind of playing conditions they all encounter. After which, you have your chance to put your views. Full details elsewhere in this edition of GI magazine.

Chelmsford Golf Club played host in mid August to the Essex Trophy this year, there was strong field of 40 taking to the course. Fortunately the weather didn't live up to its expectations, rain fell but we were saved from the worst of it, as the really heavy rain managed to hold off until the evening.

The results were as follows:- Overall winner . Ray Clark, Channels, 40 pts. Cat 1: 1. Anthony Kirwan, Lexden Wood, 33 pts; 2. Barry Mann, Three Rivers, 32 pts; 3. Liam Springett, Stoke By Nayland), 32 pts. Cat 2: 1. Dougie Fernie, Upminster, 36 pts; 2. Malcolm Smith, Channels, 33 pts; 3. Keith Chinnery, Colchester, 31 pts. Best Trade:- Andy Turbin, 40 pts. Best Guest. Peter Cracknell 34 pts. Nearest the Pins:- 4th Hole - Andy Turbin 18th Hole - Olly Stubbings.

A big thank you to Chelmsford Golf Club for hosting the day, to the greens staff for presenting the course to a high standard and the bar and catering staff for looking after us all so well.

If you have to go in GI or on the Sections Website [www.essexbigga.co.uk](http://www.essexbigga.co.uk) please contact me on 07764-862.337 or at [essexbigga@talktalk.net](mailto:essexbigga@talktalk.net)  
Arnold Phipps-Jones

## South West and South Wales



### South West

Firstly, I have to start by congratulating Section captain Wayne Vincent on another impressive season. We recently had two games in two weeks. Our first game saw us at Chippenham GC, where we had a rather strong Welsh team to face. Last year's fixture resulted in a very impressive 6-0 win, so this time the pressure was on for a repeat performance.... However, I think we'll happily take our 4-2 victory this time (although my partner in crime Tim Morgan and I didn't come home with a win, we still lapped up the teams glory!) Our second game took us to West Wilts GC. For those of who have never played West Wilts, please don't let its distance take anything away from its difficulty, this course has many of its own defences, the wind coming to mind! With 360 degree views where you can see for miles, this really is a very picturesque golf club! This is where our faithful Captain decided to take a holiday (I hear Wayne spent two weeks on a luxury cruise floating around the Med....NICE!) so up steps vice captain and long time county player, Paul Garland, aka GARFIELD. Well done Paul and the rest of the guys...so proud!

An important date for your diary....October 5, South West Section's AGM. This year we visit the north of the Section and home of Wayne, at Cotswold Hills...I look forward to seeing you all there.

Can you believe it. It's pretty much the end of the summer already, autumn conditions are very much with us already! But it's not all bad news...is it?

I realise that by the time you read this, Saltex will have come and gone, people I do hope you did your very best to support this event, Saltex should not be looked at as competition but something that we should embrace!! If you did attend I do hope that you had an enjoyable worthwhile time and that the weather did not spoil this.

I would like to thank our



**Jim Croxton**  
Chief Executive

**September afforded me my first opportunity to visit the IOG Saltex exhibition at Windsor Racecourse and it was good to see a number of members taking the opportunity to attend the BIGGA organised educational offering that took place there for the first time.**

We are committed to working in collaboration with the IOG and other bodies in the Grounds and Turf Care Industry and were therefore delighted to have the chance to provide some informative and entertaining seminars, our thanks go to Cale Bigelow, Les Howkins and Jim McKenzie MBE for taking the time to deliver them.

After Saltex our thoughts inevitably turn to BTME at Harrogate next January.

Plans are well advanced for what will, we hope, be a very successful event next year.

Stand space has sold well and it is clear that the event is now firmly in the minds of the industry as we have received strong interest for the remaining stand space in the last few weeks. As you know the major machinery manufacturers will all be in attendance this time, so the show will be back to four full halls and we anticipate excellent attendance.

I have been a regular visitor to BTME throughout my career and am very much looking forward to meeting many of you in January now that I have an even keener interest in the event.

**I have been a regular visitor to BTME throughout my career and am very much looking forward to meeting many of you in January now that I have an even keener interest in the event**

The combination of top class exhibitors, a huge range of educational workshops and seminars and the networking opportunities that start at breakfast and only conclude once each evening is over makes for a unique opportunity for anyone with an involvement or interest in the maintenance and management of golf courses and other sports facilities.

Every member I speak to who has visited the event assures me that it always provides them with excellent knowledge, information and good practice while also giving the opportunity to share thoughts and experiences with a vast network of other greenkeepers and interested parties.

I would urge anyone who hasn't attended before to mark the dates in your diary and make a point of visiting in 2012.

Elsewhere in this magazine and in previous issues you will have seen some testimonials from visitors and exhibitors and over the next few weeks and months we will be providing you with further examples of why a visit to BTME will be of tangible benefit for you and the facility that you maintain.

I hope to see you in Harrogate in January if not before.

**Jim Croxton**  
Chief Executive



patronage partners for all of their support for 2011, Ecosol, Irritech Ltd, 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 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 ill happily forward it to you.

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



## Devon and Cornwall

Hello all,

Our season of events will be starting with our AGM at Portmore Park, on Wednesday, October 5. This will be a great opportunity to see the great work that has been done at Portmore in order to achieve the "Overall Achievement Award" in the Golf Environment Awards. Members will have the opportunity to play the course or attend a course walk lead by Colin and Josh Webber. After lunch, the Section will be holding its Annual General Meeting in the clubhouse. It would be great to see a good number of the Devon and Cornwall members in attendance and contributing to the meeting.

Our second meeting of the year will be at Carlyon Bay on Wednesday, November 9. Again, golf or a course walk, lunch followed by an educational presentation by Paul Morris, GBR Technology. Paul, will be giving a presentation on wetting agents. Paul graduated with a Masters from Oxford and has many years of experience working with and developing safactant based products.

Roger Davey (Irritech Ltd) will be running an "Irrigation Workshop" at Torquay Golf Club on Thursday, November 24. The Workshop will be free to the first 20 Devon and Cornwall BIGGA Members to put their name down. There will also be a "Sprayer Update Course" to be

held at Launceston Golf Club, date to be advised. If you are interested in any of the above courses, please contact me asap.

George Pitts  
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Bigga Devon & Cornwall  
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## South Coast

Hope the season is going well for you all, by the time you read this we should be into a calm warm October!

Firstly, the Section played the annual match against the South West, at West Wilts Golf Club, in late August. As always our opponents fielded an exceptional amount of talent on a very testing day. For once we were not whitewashed and managed to scramble a half, it does mean that the South West retains the Cup, but at least we got closer than we have in many years.

The course was in perfect condition and a joy to play. Well done Neil Bungay and his team.

My next point is the Section Seminar, which has caused more than a few headaches over the year. The committee have decided not to run the seminar this autumn as co-ordinating dates with the venue and speakers has proved impossible. We will be pursuing the same format at Milton Abbey School in Dorset in February, 2012. The date will be confirmed later on but it will be during the half term week, Feb 13-18. Our guest speaker will be Jim McKenzie, from Celtic Manor venue of last year's Ryder Cup. The full format will be published nearer the date.

Changes afoot in the Section Committee, our Secretary, Chris Bitten, has decided to call it a day. Although Chris will stay on Committee he does not want the responsibility of the Secretary's role. Thanks for all you have done, Chris, the time you have put in has been much appreciated over the years. The role will be filled by Alex McCombie, currently working for Symbio. Alex served on the committee for several years before he took a job in Denmark so is well versed in

how the Section works.

I have also decided to stand down from the Chairman's position that I have held for several years. I would like formally to hand over to a new Chairman at the 2012 AGM so the Section has a year to find my replacement. As always anyone interested in the committee should make contact with me or any of the team to let us know.

The Autumn tournament is at Waterlooville on October 6, if you aren't down to play get in touch with Kev Glass on glassy2003@hotmail.com. Remember this is a new venue for the section and our AGM. See you there!

Tony Gadd



## South Wales

Our annual match against the South West took place at Chippenham GC in Wiltshire. After last year's disaster at Ashburnham we where all determined to put up a better fight this time round. We arrived at Chippenham on a typically Welsh summer's day (overcast) and enjoyed the hospitality shown to us by the South West guy's. Team Captain, Andy Roach, told us of the pairings and gave us our instructions and off we went.

On what's best described as a tight golf course, all of the matches seemed to be nip and tuck until myself and Big D saw Andy Roach and Colin Thomas walking down the 10th as we headed up the 9th. "How you getting on?" we asked. "4 down," was the reply, which wasn't great as we had just seen Paul Handy and Wayne Bengier, who were in the group behind us and they where also trailing by the same score. Anyway to cut a long story short Paul & Wayne managed to turn their match around and won by 1 hole. Andy & Colin lost their match by 1 hole, Ian Kinley and Rhys Williams won their match, Big D and I halved, Huw Morgan and Mark Anderton lost theirs as did Rhys McDonagh and Mirrion Griffiths. The final score being a win for the South West by 3 1/2 to 2 1/2. Despite the defeat it was a good afternoon's golf

and the meal that followed was first class. Inscapes sponsored the day so our thanks to James Rees for his continued support.

We've had a number of fixture re arrangements so anyone looking out for the results of the match against the GCMA can find out those in next month's magazine and also the result of the Rigby Taylor finals. Hopefully my partner and I come out on top.

Saltex this year has been a huge success. Many thanks to those of you who managed to brave the elements and travel up many of you from deepest darkest Wales and hopefully we can even double the number of you guys and get you all up to Harrogate this year Jane Jones is already starting to take names and numbers of those wishing to attend.

I heard yesterday that congratulations are in order for Rhys Norville, of Newport GC, who is heading off to a new job and a new life in New Zealand. Rhys, of course, won the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year award last year and we wish him all the very best in the future. Make sure you keep in touch mate.

(Steve Chappell writes)

Finally, in case you haven't heard, I am also on the move. I will be leaving South Wales after seven and a half years to take on the Head Greenkeeper position on the PGA Centenary course at Gleneagles. I don't start until October 17, so will be around for a while but, in case I don't catch you before I go, I would just like to say that it has been a pleasure working with you and all the guy's here in the Section. There are some great golf courses here in South Wales and we have some great greenkeepers looking after them.

Steve. On a personal note, thank you for all the support that you have given to all of us in the South Wales Section. Peter Lacey certainly had a big pair of boots to fill but you turned them into size 14's! South Wales will be at a huge loss without you on board and may we wish you every success in the future. Thanks Steve.

P.S. Don't come looking down here for any squeegee guys in 2014 most of us are still recovering from 2010 mate.

Peter Holmstrom and mainly this month again Steve Chappell.