



## 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 Piltown 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.