



London

Members, the Course walk at Sandy Lodge proved successful, many thanks to Course Manager, Robert Phillips, next is the Spring Tournament at Stanmore on Thursday, May 24, sponsored by A T Olivers where we will be saying a farewell to Tony Martin as he retires after working at Olivers forever! This event is the qualifier for the BIGGA National Championship.

Then the Summer Tournament is at Crews Hill - a hidden gem as it's a Harry Colt course. This will be on Wednesday, August 1.

The London Section website is now up and running, well done to Robert Phillips. And we now have a Facebook group [bigga london] and also Twitter [@biggalondon] well done to Lee Cox!

Finally here are the committee contact details:

Matt Plested [Muswell Hill] Chairman, matt.plested@hotmail.co.uk 07818410333

Adam McColl [Crews Hill] Secretary adamcoll@hotmail.com 07886513975

Robert Phillips [Sandy Lodge] Treasurer/website robert.phillips1@btconnect.com 07785791700

Lee Cox [Mill Hill] Golf Organiser/facebook/Twitter l.cox15@btinternet.com 07931927346

John Wells [South herts] Education/Magazine.j.wells1@sky.com 07952956857

John Wells



Essex

Just a short one this month, as we are only just getting back into the swing, as they say.

At long last we have some news for you, with golf dates for the year and a few more bits of news for later in the year.

Firstly, the golf; we kick off the season with a bang at Ilford Golf Club, Wednesday, May 16, for our Summer

Trophy, followed by the Essex Trophy, at Rochford Hundred, Thursday August 16 and then the Autumn Trophy, at Stoke by Nayland, Wednesday, September 26, with the Christmas Team Event at The Essex, Thursday, December 6.

The team Knockout competition is back, with entries to Antony Kirwan by May 16, so we can draw the matches at Ilford.

We are planning to run a trip to the Hurlingham Club; details will be posted on our website as soon as we have a date. Plus we are also running a couple of seminars with Howard Swan later in the year, again more details nearer the time.

Ian Wood would like to hear from any Essex members, who are looking for a training course. He arranged some First Aid courses over the winter, but these were not taken up, so if there is anything else that you need please contact him and he will see what he can do.

Toro's Larry Pearman and Richard Freeman have again arranged a football match for us against another team from our region, if you are interested in playing please contact Mark Stopps or Martin Forrester, but be quick as places are limited for this prestigious game. We played last year, at West Ham's Upton Park Ground against the Sussex Section, which we narrowly won. So if we do draw Sussex again this year, there will be quite a match on, as I'm sure they will want to turn the tables on us.

Lastly ten of our members and Section Sponsors made the trip to the renamed, South East Regional Golf and Dinner day at Walton Heath early in March. Although the weather was overcast, the rain kept away with dry but cold conditions, but what a day. Everyone had a tale to tell. It was my first time actually playing on the course and my second visit, the first being for the 1981 Ryder Cup. Many thanks to my playing partners, Tracey Maddison and Gary Ogilvie, for putting up with my sometimes-erratic golf. I shall be returning again next year to try my hand at conquering this famous golf course.

Just a note of thanks to my colleague and driver, Tom Smith, who helped make the day more enjoyable for me, as I

didn't have to endure the drive around the M25.

For those of you who have not experienced this day it is something not to be missed, you meet old friends and make new ones. Love him or hate him, one friend who will be there again next year for sure is that 36 hole friend called Walton Heath.

The day was finished off with the prize presentation and although Essex were absent from the prize list I'm sure they all enjoyed themselves.

The inaugural Ian McMillan Memorial Trophy was presented by Ian's son, Callum, and was watched by his grandparents, two uncles and many friends.

Congratulations to the staff for producing one of the finest courses I have had the pleasure to play and well done Clive Osgood for organising the day.

Details on contacting any of the above committee are on our website.

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



Kent

Not much to write about again this month I'm afraid, although with two events in the offing this month, be prepared for a fuller report in May. Don't forget that we have another event at West Kent Golf Club on May 24. This is one that I am particularly looking forward to as I haven't played here before. The e-mail invitation should be in circulation by now, so please get your replies in to Kev ASAP to secure your place.

One piece of news you may be interested in is that I am approaching the first anniversary of my Golf Support company. The fact that I have managed to gain and establish so many friends and professional relationships in my time has meant that I have had quite a successful year. Many thanks to all those who encouraged me

Assistant Profile

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

Name: Ian Scott
Age: 24
Club: Largs Golf Club
Position: Assistant Greenkeeper
Nickname: Jap



1. How long have you been greenkeeping?
7 Years.

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

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

4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?
Bunker renovation, because it is a joy seeing the finished article.

5. Which task do you least enjoy doing and why?
Raking the bunkers after heavy rain, because they go like concrete!

6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot?
Faster career progress for younger greenkeepers.

7. Hobbies?
Football, Golf and building computers.

8. Favourite Band?
Eminem.

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

10. What's your claim to fame?
My picture from Harrogate 2011 being in the magazine about six times!

Are you an Assistant?

To appear in this column email scott@bigga.co.uk or ring 01347 833800 Option 510