

Section Notes

Please email your notes to
media@bigga.co.uk
by the 15th
of the month

All the latest news from your Section

Around The Green



Scotland



Central

Congratulations to Craig Perry of the Dukes Course who leaves shortly to take up the position of Head Greenkeeper at South Staffs GC. Craig like a lot of guys in the area, was recently on a busman's holiday helping out at Castle Stuart for the Scottish Open. David Dukelaw also the Dukes and Fraser Robertson, St Andrews Links were in Paris helping out at the French Open. Michael Riddell, (St Andrews) was at the Irish Open, Derek Robson (Dukes) was at the US Women's Open and Phil Hind (St Andrew Links) was helping at Lytham for the Open Championship. It's fantastic to see our members being asked to assist in this way but perhaps they were all just hoping to escape this miserable weather we're experiencing. Our best wishes to all members who still have some large competitions to get through this season, it's been a hard slog so far. All I've heard these past few weeks is about the rough, pity the golfers at our Club's can't utilise the Professionals skills more and learn to hit the ball straight! Richard Windows of STRI is going to present at a seminar on the afternoon of 30 October prior to the AGM which will be held at Elmwood.

The Pairs competition is just starting the knock out stage and there will be new names on the trophy with last year's winners not qualifying from their group. Results are on the website www.biggacentralsection.org.uk where you will also find an entry form for the autumn outing at Piperdam. Hopefully Shaun Anderson, Course Manager at

Piperdam will be back to work by then following paternity leave. Congratulations Shaun on becoming a dad, you'll be up 22 hours a day now instead of the normal 20!

Gordon



North

As I am writing this report the weather for June and July has been awful and I stay hopeful that this weather will stop and we can get some heat. There has been some movement in the greenkeeping world. John Merchant is now Head Greenkeeper at Aspire Golf Centre and Stewart Brown has moved onto the Silverburn Course as First Assistant at Royal Aberdeen Golf Club, we wish them all the best in their new jobs.

Christopher Watson from Petercutter Golf Club has won Scottish Region Year 2 Award and also has been nominated for the Toro Student of the Year Award and we wish him all the best for this award.

I also have to say sorry for not posting the results from The Spring Outing at Royal Aberdeen. Better late than never so here are the results;

Nearest The Pin

Winner Gary McCandless, 8th Rigby Taylor

Winner Bob Hardie, 11th Craibstane Golf Club

Winner Josh Lester, 17th Longside Golf Club

Sweep

4th Neil Metcalf, Craibstane Golf Club

3rd Jocky Urquart, Rothes Golf Club

2nd Robert Paterson, Royal Aberdeen Golf Club

1st Neil Sadler, Portlethen Golf Club

Trade Winner

Pat Allen Symbo

Committee Winner
Robert Paterson, Royal Aberdeen Golf Club

Veterans

2nd Peter Boyd

1st Brian Cocker

Apprentice Trophy
Jack Craig, Royal Aberdeen Golf Club

Class 3

3rd Niall Bruce, Montrose Golf Club

2nd Steve Frost, Royal Aberdeen Golf Club

1st Scott Ribbeck, Kings Links Class 2

3rd Stewart Brown, Royal Aberdeen Golf Club

2nd Steve Macrae, Deeside Golf Club

1st Brian Cocker, Alyth Golf Club

Class 1

3rd Neil Metcalf, Craibstane Golf Club

2nd Douglas Elrick, Hazelhead Golf Club

1st Robert Paterson, Royal Aberdeen Golf Club

Scratch

2nd Jocky Urquart, Rothes Golf Club

1st Neil Sadler, Portlethen Golf Club

That's all for this month hope everything is going well for all of you.

Regards

Ross

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East

This year the summer months have failed to deliver any kind of weather resembling the summer's we've been used to and come to expect. The Links has more of a crop of grass than I have ever seen in June/July so the maintenance is full steam ahead day after day. All you

guys inland must be busy and with the demand on man and machine increasing there's no sign of any let up soon. Precipitation levels are through the roof together with humid conditions making disease a concern in weeks to come. Still it's all part of the challenge of being a Greenkeeper and it will be interesting to see what happens later in the season.

I've had many messages of sympathy that curiously resembles jokes about my football team (Rangers) It's tough time's for Gers fans but the jokes make it SO much easier to take (NOT!) Stop laughing Shaun Cunningham!!

Hopefully you've all had your summer update delivered to you. Thanks to Stuart Ferguson for that so see you all at Mortonhall GC for the Willie Woods Trophy. Do you have any interesting stories about the weather? Contact me s.crawford@live.co.uk or phone 07873464097 remember no more Gers jokes please!

Stewart Crawford



West

It is great to have such fantastic weather year on year, something we've come to expect of Scottish summer's, but how depressing is this summer? When can we get some sunshine again? Well as you can guess it's pretty awful weather in the West of Scotland with rain, rain and more rain, but I'm sure we can expect an Indian summer. First item on the agenda is the results from the spring outing held at Cardross Golf Club on 10 May. Surprisingly enough it was raining cats and dogs! Thanks to all the brave souls who made the day worthwhile by turning up to get drenched! Congratulations

to John Barr and his staff for the condition of the course which was superb considering, thanks also to the catering staff for providing lovely food on the day and finally to the club for allowing the section to play your excellent golf course. Prize winners were scratch A Reid 73, 1st class winner S McCall (Drumpellier) 36 points, 2nd S Taylor Glasgow 34 points, 3rd C Littlejohn Bearsden 32 points, 2nd class winner J Steadward Blairbeth 34, 2nd C Wyllie Glasgow 30 (BIH), 3rd D McKechnie 30, 3rd class winner S Brawley East Kilbride 35, 2nd P Livingston 31, 3rd M Maxton EK 28 points. I would say well done to all the competitors for their efforts during a very trying day, the total entrants of 34 was a bit more refreshing. Hopefully we can get a few more to turn up for the autumn outing at Fereneze on 18 September courtesy of Peter Boyd who is Captain.

The Scottish outing at Ratho Park saw a disappointing entry of 42 players compete for a wonderful variety of prizes on a lovely golf course which was a joy to play even if a few of the pin placements were a bit challenging. Congratulations to Billy Hudson and his staff for providing such an excellent test of golf. Thanks go to the Vice Captain for saying a few words during the presentation on behalf of the Club and the catering staff for providing an excellent meal. May I also take the opportunity to say thanks to Jim Croxton and Rachael Duffy for helping to run the event as this was John Young's first competition as Regional Administrator and finally thanks to John for making things run nice and smoothly.

Last but not least, a mention is due to Kerr Hunter at Gledoch House for recently finishing five years distance learning to complete a Degree in Turf Science,

he is now a Bachelor of Science with Honours. Kerr has studied at Myerscough College for five years whilst bringing up a young family and maintaining a full time position as Head Greenkeeper. Well done on a fantastic achievement and thanks to Kerr for passing on the information to me, allowing the section to share in his good news. Should anybody have any interesting news for me to pass on please contact me on 0141-942-5554 or 07790823914 or my email is stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com.

Stuart Taylor

Northern Region



North East

The John Deere Team Championship was played 24 June at Darlington GC, 21 teams turned up, Parklands GC won the event with a nett 5. Their team consisted of Head Greenkeeper Tom Alexander, General Manager Joe Fleetwood and Chairman of the Greens Gavin Jobe. They will go on to represent our area at Slaley Hall, September 20 where they will have the opportunity to win a trip to play Myrtle Beach. Nearest the pin went to Simon Coultras from City of Newcastle GC and longest drive went to Gavin Jobe of Parklands. I received a phone call a couple of days later on from our new Regional Administrator Sandra Raper who is looking after the Northern and Midlands Regions. Sandra asked me to attend the John Deere Team Championship at Windermere GC in Cumbria, July 3, on her behalf as she was attending another meeting elsewhere.

What a lovely part of the coun-

try to live in and what a great course to play. It was not a long course but can be tricky, great views and guess what not a sand bunker in sight! The course was in great condition considering the wet summer we have had, in fact when I met the Head Greenkeeper David Wilkinson he gave me some notes on annual rainfalls dating back to 1981 for his course. This proved very interesting reading it was from year 2000 to present day their average rainfall has been almost 1990mm and last month in June alone it was 308mm! It is thought we were supposed to be having drier summers according to the experts.

The Team Championship winners were none other than David Wilkinson, M.Lawton, K Barrows of the home club with a score of 56 gross nett 55. I think you lads better get some bunker practice in for the finals at Slaley Hall as there's plenty of them. Finally I would like to thank Richard Charlton of John Deere and also to the team from local dealers Henry Armer & Son of Leece, Ulverston for making me very welcome on the day.

That's all for this month, sorry I didn't have any news for the July magazine but should any greenkeepers from Cumbria want any news put in just let me know.

Jimmy
North East section
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Northern

What a lovely start to the day at our Presidents fixture at Scarcroft... fantastic weather, super course and good old Ben from Scarboro bumping into

Frank Stewart's car.... priceless. Good turn out chaps, thanks again for your support especially to the old swinger Mr. Guy, it's been far too long top man good to have you back. Many thanks to Mat and the boys for their hard work and to Billy and his staff for looking after us and not forgetting our sponsor Rob from Full Circle Irrigation.

The winners....

Div 1...1st D.Gosney
2nd R.Harris
3rd A. Baxter
Div2...1st J.Walsh
2nd J.Watts
3rd F.Stewart
Div3 1st K.Christie
2nd B.Jackson
3rd G.Street!!

Trade winner...Mel Guy and G.Baxter

Nearest pin...D.Gosney and Duncan Campball

A big thank you to Sandra our regional rep for popping down to see us and helping us out ...the raffle ticket sales were very good so the job is yours for Horsforth if you like it!!

We had a brisk EGM for the vacant treasurers position and Joe Walsh stepped in and gladly got voted in. I have known Joe for a while now and he will be a good lad to have on board. I had got together a very strong team for our little match up with our friends from the Sheffield section but the poor weather did us and it was cancelled. Rumor has it that pressure was put on the lads at Howley Hall from a 'very big chap' from another region to get it called off because they knew they were in for a mighty big kicking from us!!

Next up for us is the invitational day at Horsforth, 22 August, another afternoon kick off so I am hoping for a big turn out please. ...And finally I have a few copies of Walter Wood's book which I got from a old

BTME is back

for it's 24th year, at the Harrogate International Centre

► BIGGA TURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION ► 22-24 JANUARY 2013

Around The Green

friend of mine, Monkey Harris says they are in good condition and at only £3.99 to you guys is a steal! Cheques made payable to me please....tee hee!

Andy Slingsby
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Andy.slingsby98@googlemail.com



North Wales

Is anyone else fed up with being soaked to the skin, day in and day out? I'll be completely honest, I love my job but the forever growing grass and hellish conditions we have to try and keep it tidy and under control in are driving me and the other members of our team to distraction. Ok I'll stop whinging but I'm sure we're not the only greenkeepers at the moment that are feeling the pressure.

On a brighter note, 19 June we finally played the mid-summer / spring tournament at my home course of the Vale of Llangollen golf club and 48 competitors played in the sunshine, yes there was sunshine! With a very competitive field the results are as follows; 1st Richard Lewis of Machynllech GC 39 pts, 2nd Jez Hughes (home advantage) 37pts, 3rd Paul Sandalls of Heswall GC 34 pts, 4th Neil Oxtan also of Heswall GC 33 pts, 5th Andy Noon making a Heswall treble on runners up 33 pts. Best gross, Paul Roberts of Baron Hill round in 74. Trade prize, John Mooney with 35 pts. Nearest the pin went to Paul Sandalls not only on the 6th but on the 18th as well! The day was played in Great Spirit and a mention to Haydn Jones of Chirk GC who chipped a great shot in on the 13th.

We fight as a section on two fronts between July and August, 27 July we play the inaugural North Wales v South Wales match at Aberdovey GC. 7 August we play the annual North Wales v North West match at Lymm GC, best of luck to all our players.

The North Wales v North West cricket match took place on 18 July, a big thank you goes to Nick Grey for organising the event. Full results for all these events will be in next month's column. The autumn tourna-

ment takes place on the 11th of September at St Melyd GC. Really looking forward to visiting Eifion Ellis's course, remember when you book in that your replies go to Carl Crocher not Jez Hughes, the address for entries are on your three comp entry form.

On a sad note we hear that Jeff Allinson of Patshull Park GC passed away recently after a short illness, our condolences go to his family, friends and colleagues. Allen Lewis of Llanymynech GC celebrates 40 years of service this year and the club recognised this achievement with a celebration night and uncovered a plaque naming their new academy short course the 'Allen Lewis academy course'.

Well that was a bit more of an essay than a short note to keep you informed, so I'll sign off with all the best until next month!

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Midland Region



Midland

Well here we are again, same old story, rain, rain, and then some more rain. The one thing I love doing is putting on my chest waders, however of late they have been employed to try and keep me dry at work and not so as I can go fly fishing. I have always wished that I worked on a course with a river running through it, be careful what you wish for. I do not envy those that have such at the moment.

The summer tournament at Oxley Park on 11 July was postponed due to the monsoon type weather we have been getting throughout July. The new date is confirmed as Wednesday 5 September. We shall keep any entries and re-enter you for the new date unless you require a refund, if so please contact Gary who will be happy to oblige.

The autumn tournament at Druids Heath has also been moved back a week due to a clash of dates. Please note the new date of Thursday October 25 for your diaries, which will also include the section's AGM.

Entries for the golf days this

year have been disappointing to date, so please consider supporting your section if you can. We welcome new faces and would love to see you at any of our golf days or education events throughout the year. You can get further information through our web site www.biggamidlandsection.co.uk <<http://www.biggamidlandsection.co.uk>> or contacting Rhys Thomas on 077774164173. Please note this number for Rhys is new, due to his recent appointment as Course Manager at Blackwell Golf Club. Many belated congratulations on your appointment at Blackwell, we are sure you will be a big success.

This month's calendar sponsor is our longstanding friends and supporters of the section Rigby Taylor/Tony Cheese. Please consider them for your chemicals, fertilisers, grass seed and specialties particularly by Mascot. Tony can be contacted on: 07778 665 506 or t.cheese@rigbytaylor.com.

And finally, I would like to welcome a young buck to our profession, a certain Master Marcus Davis has joined the team at Stratford-Upon-Avon GC. He is straight out of school at 16 and then dives into the complex world of greenkeeping. Baptism of fire comes to mind. We were all there once, I wouldn't choose any other.

My thanks to our Chair Ed for the real content of the above.

Sean McDade.



East of England

By the time you read this we should have just played our latest golf event at Belton Woods, results will be here next month. The big news in the section this month does not involve the weather (more on that later), but the departure of our section chairman for pastures new. Allan Walker has been our Chairman for the past few years, too long according to the secretary! Over the past couple of years he has been moving further and further away from us here at East of England, however he just keeps coming back! He has now taken up a

new position in Holland and not even he will be able to make it here for a golf day just to N/R after 9 holes! Joking aside Allan has to be thanked by everyone involved for the drive and enthusiasm he has brought to the section. His passion and forward thinking meant that we were the first section to have their own website and a groundbreaking "twinning" with the GCSAA Peaks and Praries Chapter. His unique style will certainly be missed at section events and golf days (although the presentations may be a bit quicker now!

At Section level Vice Chairman Graeme MacDonald will take over as Chairman for the time being.

Allan was also Midland Region Chairman and Vice Chairman Rob Welford will now assume this position. On behalf of everyone in the section I would like to wish Allan all the very best in his new venture. Quite how the Dutch will ever understand his Scottish tones is beyond me but I am sure they will all find common ground. I am quite sure that he already has his tickets and hotel booked for Harrogate next year and am sure the section will extend an invite to him at our drinks reception at Hales Bar.

As for the weather, constant rainfall has once again left us with areas only accessible by boat! Not quite as bad as 2007 but not far off. 40mm of rain in less than half an hour made a real mess. Two days pushing up bunker washouts and cultivating bases was followed by another 35mm of rain putting us back to where we started. All this coupled with warm temperatures has sent our grass factory into overdrive leaving the course resembling a silage field once it has been cut. Here's hoping for a dry August!

Steve Beverly, Immingham Golf Club.

Around The Green Section Notes

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South East Region



Mid Anglia

I apologise for the lack of news in the magazine of late, we've just found out Nigel Phelan is no longer a member of BIGGA and has stepped down from his role on the committee. We wish him well in whatever he chooses to do and hope he can get back into greenkeeping soon.

Darren Mugford will be taking the responsibility of getting some news out to you through this article, so if he is at your course and you may have some news yourself, please let him know and he'll be able to get it aired.

By the time this article reaches you we will have played our second competition of the year. Gerald has sent an email with entry forms and if, for some reason you didn't get one please let us know and we will get you in on the list. I will let Darren do the results from the spring and summer comps when he takes over, as it can be hard to find things to put in the magazine.

Once again I can only apologise for not having any news lately but things are moving forward and you should be kept up to date from now on.

Many Thanks, and now onto Darren...

Steve Mason

Hi my name is Darren Mugford and for those who don't already know me I am from Rigby Taylor Ltd and I have been asked to fill the vacant position of providing a monthly update on the Mid Anglia Section. Firstly I would like to thank Nigel for his contribution and wish him all the best in future ventures and hope to see you back with the section soon.

Our first event of the season was the Spring Tournament held on 31 May at Letchworth Golf Club and despite the constant threat of rain the 33 players largely managed to stay dry and enjoyed the challenges

of a superbly presented course. Our thanks go to Matthew Towler and his team for their outstanding efforts in getting the course into such great condition considering the crazy weather we have all been experiencing this spring/summer.

The results from the Spring Tournament were as follows

1st Place - John Haley from South Beds GC with 38 points.

2nd Place - Simon Woolley from Brickendon Grange GC with 37 points.

3rd Place - Peter Briars from Knebworth GC on 36 points.

Nearest pin on 14th went to T Smith.

Longest drive on 4th went to Gerald Bruce.

Just incase anybody didn't know the hosepipe ban has now been lifted! Since it was implemented there has been record rainfall for April, June and July all a total washout. Let's hope the sun shows itself at some point soon to lift all our spirits and help to produce the kind of putting surfaces we all crave.

If anybody has any info for the section please email me on d.mugford@rigbytaylor.com and I will aim to include in any future editions.

Stay Dry! Darren



Sussex

Our first tournament of the year was played at Willingdon Golf Club where the hospitality and the course were top drawer. The course seemed to favour the local talent more than others. The Trade & Guest prize was won by Henry who I believe is ex-Willingdon.

1st Nett went to S Fuller from Lewes GC, 2nd Nett to Peter Negus from Willingdon GC and 3rd Nett to Matt Webb from Willingdon GC. Could this be inside information?

The Best Gross 1st was clinched by Peter Ray from Haywards Heath GC, 2nd was earned by Chris Wells from Seaford Blatchington and Mike Gould of Copthorne GC won 3rd. Thanks once again to Pete and his team for the great condition of the course and to

the Club for the splendid meal afterwards.

I would once again ask all in the Sussex Section to drop me line, ring me or email me with any news of interest to the section. I can only keep you all informed with information received. Let's hear your news!

Cheers for now,
Eric Green
Beauport Park Golf Club

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Kent

Not much to write about this month I'm afraid as the rain continues to pour and the grass continues to grow. On my own course just trying to get out between showers proves to be a big challenge as barely a day goes by without another cloudburst soaking us again. It's times like this when you really appreciate good drainage. I hope that those of you reading this column from other parts of the country that have been hit far more severely than us are managing to cope with the extreme conditions and that, when the weather finally turns and the waters recede, you still have some resemblance of a golf course to work your magic upon.

Our summer pairs knockout is now in full swing and many thanks to all those who entered this great, fun championship. Check the website for up to the minute results.

Don't forget to contact me with any news that you would like included in this column.

Best of British
Rob Holland
www.kentgreenkeepers.com



South Coast

Firstly, an apology that our section missed an entry into last months GI, don't know what happened but I will take

Assistant Profile

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

Name: Alan Campbell
Age: 53!
Club: Carrickknowe Golf Course (Edinburgh Leisure)
Position: Assistant Greenkeeper
Nickname: Ham/Hamey



1. How long have you been greenkeeping? 17 years

2. What was it about the career that attracted you? I fell into it by chance, then fell in love with greenkeeping.

3. If you weren't a greenkeeper what do you think you'd be? International man of mystery or in retail/sales!

4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why? Being involved with redesign/remodelling which improves the hole/course or helps with safety, traffic flow, speed of play etc.

5. Which task do you least enjoy doing and why? Emptying litter bins - dog poo central!

6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot? Improved liaison with teachers and careers advisors, etc, to educate them in the opportunities available and skills required in greenkeeping/golf course management.

7. Hobbies? Curling (playing and coaching), and pub quizzes.

8. Favourite Music? I enjoy John Otway.

9. Which team do you support (football or otherwise)? Jedforest R.F.C.

10. What is your claim to fame? Caddied in the European Open at Sunningdale, my man finished 2nd!

BIGGA welcomes the following new members

Scotland

Fraser Jardine, North Section
Alan Thomson, West Section

Northern Region

Daniel Richards, North Wales Section

Midland Region

Tim Willson, East Midland Section
Stephen Marsden, Midland Section
Fred Sines, Berks/Bucks & Oxon Section
Maurice Sines, Berks/Bucks & Oxon Section
Jeffrey Donovan, Mid Anglia Section
Michael Finn, Mid Anglia Section
Michael Goddard, Mid Anglia Section
Pat Manning, Mid Anglia Section
Simon Williams, Mid Anglia Section

South East Region

Kane Smith, Surrey Section
Paul Sheridan, Surrey Section

South West/South Wales Region

Adam Brackley, South West Section
Benjamin Sparks, South West Section
Jason Stevens, South West Section
Kevin Brown, South West Section
Ashley Phillips, South Coast Section
Jonathan Pickett, South Coast Section
Josh Collins, South Coast Section
Raymond Lester, South Wales Section

Northern Ireland

Philip Montgomery, Northern Ireland

Overseas

Stephen Casburn, Republic of Ireland
Jan Larsson, Sweden

For more information on new members log in to the Members' Area of the BIGGA Website.



Calling all BIGGA Members

Have you changed any of your contact details since you last gave them to us? If so, please get in touch with us at BIGGA Membership.

Our email address is membership@bigga.co.uk

Contact details can include your email address, phone number, change of address, change of club etc. Thanks in advance, for keeping us up to date!

the blame because, I can put it down to age and the fact that I have never seen so much grass, so there has been little time to think about anything other than cutting. Barton, here on the cliff top has never been so green at this time of year, our fuel costs will be sky high as all the kit is constantly out.

As I write this in mid-July it is raining again with top temperatures around 16c and it feels like autumn.

The John Deere invitation was held at Rushmore Park Golf Club on 10 July, 20 teams competing for a place in the National final to be held at Slaley Hall later this year. The winning club was Broadstone, in second place was Remedy Oak and third went to Barton-on-Sea. The course was in great condition a credit to Clive Browning and all of his staff on what has been a difficult year. The few showers we all endured did not dampen the atmosphere on a very enjoyable day. Happy retirement to both Clive Browning and Tony Crouch from Rushmore, have a well deserved rest!

Our summer golf tournament was played at Blackmore Golf Club on 11 July, with a field of 44 which was a good number considering the pressure most greenkeepers are under. Most of us travelled through torrential rain to get there but we were blessed with a dry afternoon on one of the best courses I have played for a long time. All credit to James Norris and his team for presenting the course in first class condition, truly great.

Winners, with an obscene better ball score of 49 points were Alan and Tom McGee. In second place with a respectable 42 points was Charles Troth and Steve Kattenhorn. Third went to Dave Ross and Tony Kebby also with 42 points losing out on a count back. Yours truly got very close to the 'booby' prize but was piped at the post by Bill Ridgley and Mike Vann with a score of 27 points. Longest drive went to Lee Blackburn and nearest the pin was Alan Digweed. As always many thanks go to our sponsors Tacit for presenting us with some great prizes, long may your support continue.

Our annual match against the secretaries had to be cancelled due to bad weather and has been re-scheduled for 2 August at Rushmore Park Golf Club, the results of which will be

in next months issue. The next golf date is the match against the South West at Salisbury and S. Wilts Golf Club on 20 September. If you are interested in playing contact myself or any committee member for details. The autumn comp and AGM is at Weymouth Golf Club on 4 October, more details in the next issue. Meanwhile, back to cutting grass in the rain until next month.

Tony Gadd

South West and South Wales



South West

Firstly, I don't like to start on such a negative note, however recently the section had to cancel its summer tournament. This was due to be played at Cumberwell Park GC. Apologies go to all members at Cumberwell, including Matt and his staff, I hear and believe the course was in fantastic condition. Although canceling the event was not something we wanted to, it was very understandable giving the recent conditions, greenkeeping has been a very difficult job recently, it's all cut, cut, cut...and rain, rain rain. During these conditions, if you have staff like we do at Minch, consider yourself very lucky!

Back to a more positive note, dates that you should make a note of are Friday 10 August, a section match v South Wales to be played at Royal Porthcawl GC. This may include an overnight stay that evening. Please contact section captain Wayne Vincent for more details and to show your interest.

We have also had some interest in training workshops; please contact Paul Worster or myself should you have an interest in this. A spraying course (pending numbers) could be possible early autumn. Please, if you have any information you would like to share with the section please contact myself, at the very least that'll really help me with this article...

Many thanks to all our patronage partners for their

support during 2012.

See you all very soon

Adam

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adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk



Devon and Cornwall

Our summer meeting this year was held at Launceston Golf Club, Cornwall. The day consisted of our yearly grudge match between Devon and Cornwall as well as individual prizes for best Stableford scores.

A course walk was also organised and led by Graeme Gallimore, Head Greenkeeper. Graeme has been at Launceston for 8 years and has been an active member of the section, being heavily involved with the education and training over the years. Graeme and the team have worked hard to improve the surfaces and overall presentation of the course at Launceston and considering the recent heavy rains, the course was looking fantastic!

A big thank you to our sponsors for the day, Symbio and Farmura. Both companies have been very strong supporters of the Section over the years.

The match was won by Devon after a 3 year drought and the trophy was presented to Gavin Moore, Devon Captain for the day. The individual prizes went to Jamie Gregory (Launceston) in 1st place with 36 points, winning on count back. 2nd was Andy George (Trehorne) with 36 points and in 3rd place was Adam Bridgewater (Yelverton) 35 points. The prizes were donated and presented by Paul Lowe (Symbio). Nearest pin on the 9th was won by Andy George and on the 15th by Martin Samuels (Blade Amenity). Longest drive on the 6th was won by Rob Cook (Bowood) and on the 11th by Neil Ivamy (Trevose). Prizes for nearest the pin and longest drive were donated and presented by Peter Lacey (Farmura).

The day was finished off with a BBQ, which was enjoyed by the members attending. A very successful day, with big thanks going to Graeme and his team for presenting a fantastic course

and to Launceston Golf Club for their hospitality. Also, thanks again to our sponsors for the day, Farmura and Symbio.

An evening course walk was organised at Trevoze Golf and Country Club on Wednesday 11 July. Jon Wood has recently taken over at Trevoze as Course Manager and has been preparing for the upcoming McGregor Trophy which is the Boys under 16 Open Championship, played at the same time as the Open itself.

Thanks to Jon for taking time out of his busy schedule to organise this and I am sure that all the attendees found it extremely informative and interesting. If any other Course Managers or Head Greenkeepers would like to stage an Evening Course Walk at anytime, please contact me and we can arrange some dates and times.

Thank you to all the members, trade representatives and sponsors for supporting another fantastic and successful season of events. I am now working on next season's events where venues have been shortlisted. Please contact me ASAP if you would like to be considered or if you as members would like to have an event at any specific venues.

George Pitts
Section Secretary
BIGGA Devon & Cornwall
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South Wales

I would like to say we're enjoying a beautiful summer, but most mornings throughout this last month have felt like the middle of November and we should be getting ready for Christmas when in fact we should be looking forward to our summer holidays. All I can

say to all you head greenkeepers, course managers, grounds managers and all assistant staff keep your heads up every one of you are in the same boat (literally), but you are all doing a fantastic job and there's nothing any of you can do better apart from pray to the man upstairs for him to turn the tap off!

Our summer competition was held at Creigiau Golf Club and we were fortunate to play on a day where we only had the wind to deal with. This was our first visit to the golf course and a huge thank you to Robert and his staff for the fantastic presentation and very good putting surfaces, you would not have thought 24hrs previous we had over 30mm of rain. With over 20 competitors out on the course trying to steer between the old trees scoring was difficult

In 1st place Marc Anderton who scored 32 points off a handicap of 1, 2nd went to Nigel Ruck with 28 points and 3rd was Barry Smith also with 28 points. Longest Drive went to Andy Roach and the nearest the pin Stuart Clayton.

But the best prize for the Trade Winner myself with a massive 36 points get in! It was nice after golf to see so many of us back in shirts and ties for the evening meal I think it does bring the professionalism back to us off the course as well as on it.

A huge thank you again to Creigiau Golf Club for your generous hospitality show all day and again Robert for the excellent course set up. Thanks also to all patrons of the section, without your support prizes and events like these couldn't take place thank you.

Our next event is October 11 at Clyne Golf Club, the AGM starts at 11am followed by golf at 1pm. Please guys book this time in your calendars and try and support the AGM to air your views and support section golf event.

Thanks all, Peter H

Around The Green Section Notes

Please email your notes to
media@bigga.co.uk
by the 15th of the month

BIGGA

are delighted to be at

IOG SALTEX

4-6 September 2012

Windsor Racecourse

Berkshire

Stand E33

*Come and
say hello!*

