

seminars.

Our events calendar for 2012 has been in circulation for a few months now. If you want to see what we've got planned then please see our webpage. Also, Hadlow College are still running their monthly evening seminars on our behalf so please try to get to as many of these as possible. Thanks very much to John Millen for hosting these free evenings for us again.

Many thanks to those companies that have chosen to sponsor us again. Your support is much appreciated and we wish your businesses well for the coming year.

Don't forget to call me if you need any help with your courses. Details on webpage.

Best of British

Rob Holland www.kent-greenkeepers.com



Sussex

The Turkey Trot was again played at Worthing Golf Club and a big thank you goes out to George Barr and his crew for presenting a delightful course and also to the catering staff for their hospitality and a great meal. Many thanks to Dave Bush, and Ernest Doe, for the BBQ and drinks at the half way point. I know it was much appreciated. The competition resulted in a grand win in first place for Dave Allen, Simon Wells, Richard Evans and Tony Muzzal.

The Mitchells Grounds Care Sussex Bowl was won by Mike Gould and Richard, from Copthorne Golf Club, defeating George Barr and Gary Ogilvie. Well done to Mike and Richard. More support is needed for the competition this year so PLEASE ENTER. I am sure the entire Section would want to join me to once again thank our sponsors because without their help our events would not be as grand as they are. So please show your support for them and our section and support this year's coming events. Our thanks to: Darren and Scott, at Mitchells Grounds Care Machinery; Mark Day from Tacit; Gary Ogilvie, from Avoncrop Amenity; Dave Bush,

from Ernest Doe, and Steve Vogells and John Cole, from John Shaw Machinery.

Congratulations to Richard and Beth Evans, of Pyecombe Golf Club, on the birth of their son on Christmas Day at 3am. Jake weighed in at 6 lbs 8oz and all are doing well.

Conditions were calm and the sea smooth for the Mitchells Groundscare five-hour sea match held at Pevensey Bay. Twenty-seven anglers fished the competition which saw the whiting size limit raised to 30cm to save weighing in too many fish as there is a glut of whiting at this time of year. In 1st place (and now banned from fishing his own competitions) was Darren Mitchell, from Haywards Heath GC. Second place went to Steven Lusted, Third place to Keith Bean and Fourth place to Paul Giles. The biggest fish pool money went to Steven Lusted, which netted him prize money of £155. Darren honourably stepped down as overall winner and Steven Lusted was presented with the winner's trophy. Everyone weighed in at least one fish so a good time was had by all. Thanks to everyone that attended. A special thanks goes to Colin Martin, from Lewes GC, as he has fished all the matches, both sea and fresh water with a posse of five with him. The next Mitchells Groundscare Machinery course match will be in late June. Anyone interested should book in once a date is announced as numbers might be limited or a larger lake may have to be found. Contact Darren on 07533-476878.

Cheers for now,
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South West and South Wales Region



South Wales

I hope everyone is well and

have enjoyed BTME. Please find reports and gossip in next month's edition. A warm but wet welcome to Mark Tucker, who has successfully headed north up from Saunton Sands, North Devon, as the new Head Greenkeeper of Neath Golf Club. We would like to wish him all the best in his new role.

I wrote in last month's magazine about the winter golf tournament being played unfortunately due to gale force winds and some extreme hails stone the event has been postponed until January 17 we are all hoping for better weather then! All results are to follow.

That's all from me this month please any news, gossip or any dramas please without hesitation contact myself at anytime.

Peter Holmstrom



South West

During December, the South West had its Christmas competition. This year we visited Burnham & Berrow GC and what an amazing day it was! Unfortunately the weather was awful, I couldn't say one nice thing about the weather, we arrived at Burnham for our pre round bacon roll and coffee and at that time, the rain was coming in sideways! I remember seeing about 30 greenkeepers standing looking out the clubhouse window, many of them thinking exactly the same as me! By the time it was our turn to go out, I must say the weather did improve slightly, and many of us had an enjoyable round of golf. With this said, the condition of the golf course was brilliant, many of you will know Burnham and will already understand this. We had just played a golf course in December, in awful conditions but I still left the 18th green thinking "Wow, that was an enjoyable to walk."

Many of you will know how popular the South West Christmas Golf Day is, this year was no exception... with over 45 playing golf 15 more for the course walk and sitting down with 70 guests for the meal, this really was a fantastic day! Many

Assistant Profile

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

Name: Tom Wood
Age: 23
Club: Outlane GC, Huddersfield
Position: Assistant Greenkeeper
Nickname: TomTom, Tomoose



1. How long have you been greenkeeping?
4 years

2. What was it about the career that attracted you?
Preparing sportsturf and being outdoors.

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

4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?
Course improvement projects and hand mowing.

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

6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot?
Club managers and Course managers steering clubs forward would lead to improvements in all areas.

7. Hobbies?
Cricket, Football, Golf, Photography, Gigs and Dog walking

8. Favourite Band?
Right now. The Black Keys

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

10. What is your claim to fame?
None. Yet.

Are you an Assistant?
Please email scott@bigga.co.uk for a list of Qs...