

Nearest the Pin on the 3rd, Phil Ryder, Nearest the Pin on the 9th, Andy Thrift and Nearest the Pin in two on the 8th, Jim Lilitou. A special mention must be made to David Lyons, who recorded a hole-in-one on the 16th. The irony being it was the only par-3 without a Nearest the Pin! Full results can be viewed on the Section website.

A thank you must go to all of the staff at the Buckinghamshire who looked after everyone fantastically. In particular a big thank you and congratulations must go to newly-appointed Course Manager, Andy Ewance, and his team who presented a fantastic course which was both a challenge and pleasure to play. Andy brings a wealth of experience and knowledge which will continue to take the golf course forward. We wish him well with the new challenge.

Our thanks must go to the various sponsors, in particular Avoncrop, the main sponsors for the day. Without their generous support these events could not happen. It was fantastic to see the day so well supported by members and we look forward to seeing many of you again at this year's events.

The Section AGM was held before the dinner. The Committee were re-elected with Matt Nutter confirmed as Secretary. Fixtures for this year's events are also to be confirmed. The committee are organizing a photo competition where entries will be posted and viewed on the section's web site. Please send any worthy prize winning photos of your course to: [coursemanager@hdgc.co.uk](mailto:coursemanager@hdgc.co.uk).

If anyone has any news, views or ideas they would like to see for the BB&O section then please don't hesitate to get in touch: [bboscribe@gmail.com](mailto:bboscribe@gmail.com) or contact the committee or Matt Nutter: [bbosecretray@gmail.com](mailto:bbosecretray@gmail.com)

Alternatively keep up to date with what is happening in the BB&O Section by following us on Twitter, Facebook and the website: [www.bbogreenkeepers.co.uk](http://www.bbogreenkeepers.co.uk)



## East Midlands

Like Ross in Friends I am still carrying a little holiday weight as we enter another New Year. Congratulations to any Greenkeepers who appeared in the Queen's New Years Honours List....What? you mean there weren't any? What lies ahead?.....Another dry Spring giving little recovery from the Winter wear and tear and early season demands on irrigation systems and water supplies? Or will we have the perfect year...March winds... April showers etc? Only time will tell.

Looking back to the end of 2011, I would like to thank Andy McGreal and Danny Brown and their team at Lingdale Golf Club for hosting our Section Christmas Competition, which was a great success. Terry Walker and his Clubhouse team were excellent hosts and really looked after us all too. We managed to attract some new faces to the event and I sincerely hope this trend can continue throughout this year. I think the baseball cap and the Jelly Babies in the raffle are now becoming an integral part of the day!

After the Christmas and New Year celebrations we look ahead to wintry golf conditions, winter projects and of course Harrogate. Always a great week, whether in the show or catching up with old friends in the town in the evening. Incidentally if anyone sees the magician from 2010 who was impressing the ladies with his close up magic tricks could you tell him I've got his Ace of Spades so that's why his trick stopped working!

After Harrogate we enter the depressing month of February when the days seem so short and the sun has hardly any warmth in it and we stare at the calendar hoping for an early Spring.....just in time for The Masters to appear on our televisions. Which in turn leads to members asking 'Why isn't our course presented to that standard?' and 'The rhododendrons at Augusta always seem to bloom at the right time, don't they?...'I find a furrowed brow and silence often does the trick!!

So anyhow, here's to that perfect year for greenkeeping; just the right amount of rain

(at night of course), just the right amount of sunshine, no wind when spraying is planned and finally all golfers to repair/replace their divots, repair their pitchmarks and rake the bunkers properly as they always claim to do!

Happy New Year  
Greg Skinner



## Midland

Firstly, may I wish all a very happy new year on behalf of the Section's Committee. It also gives me great pleasure to inform you that Keith Swan, of Penn Golf Club, has been promoted to the position of Deputy. I hope that such gives you as much pleasure as it did me, well done Swaney.

As you maybe aware, our Toro service provider's are now Redtech owned and run by G. Hall. From personal experience I will vouch for Graham and his team's commitment to service. Our thanks to Redtech for sponsoring this month's calendar page. For all your Toro needs they can be contacted on: 07702 154 987, or [redtech@btinternet.com](mailto:redtech@btinternet.com).

Section Education Events booked for 2012;

Winter: Trip to John Deere UK, Langer, January 11, hosted by Farol's, through Kevin Pugh; Spring: Sherriff Amenity Road Show on March 14, hosted by Sherriff Amenity, through Nigel Tyler; Summer: Visit to Tillers Turf Farm on July 25, hosted by Rigby Taylor, through Tony Cheese; Autumn: Headland and STRI day. STRI to show the benefits of infiltration testing and Headland to look at winter greens management on October 24, through Mark Hunt, Headland Amenity, and Paul Woodham, STRI.

Golf Venues and dates for 2012: Spring: The Chase Golf Club, May 23; Summer: Oxley Park Golf Club, July 11;

Autumn: Druids Heath Golf Club, October 18; Winter: Sutton Coldfield Golf Club, December 2.

Please log onto the Midland Section website [www.midlandsection.co.uk](http://www.midlandsection.co.uk) <<http://>

## Assistant Profile

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

**Name:** Andy Slingsby

**Age:** 43  
**Position:** Assistant Greenkeeper

**Club:** West End Golf Club, Halifax

**Nickname....**none printable!



**1. How long have you been greenkeeping?** 12 years

**2. What was it about the career that attracted you?** I have always enjoyed working outdoors and if could not earn a living from playing golf, well working on a golf course is second best.

**3. If you weren't a greenkeeper what do you think you'd be?** A publican

**4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?** Handcutting the greens. If your lines are straight, the finish is great to see

**5. Which task do you least enjoy doing and why?** Digging. 'Cos I get my hands dirty and can't use my phone!

**6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot?** The weather - longer sunny months

**7. Hobbies?** Golf, football, music and drinking beer!

**8. Favourite Band?** The Smiths

**9. Which team do you support (football or otherwise)?** Sheffield United

**10. What is your claim to fame?** I took part in Challenge Anneka, the BBC programme from the '80s and '90s!

Contact Scott at BIGGA on 01347833800 ext 510 to appear in as an Assistant Profile