

Section Notes

Please email your notes to
media@bigga.co.uk
by the 5th
of the month

All the latest news from your Section

Around The Green



Scotland



Central

We had an excellent turnout of over 30 members for the presentation from Eric Lyons of Guelph University at Elmwood on 6 June. His talk on silver thread moss was very informative, but more importantly, the cultural controls he spoke about were all good, sensible green-keeping practices which are relevant and helpful for so many of the problems or challenges we face. It was great to see such a good mix of experienced course managers and young student greenkeepers get together at such an event. The next presentation is on 12 July from John Kaminski of Penn State and Rick Latin of Purdue University.

The only other events arranged are the autumn outing at Piperdam on 19 September and the section AGM which will be held at Elmwood on 30 October where we hope to organise a speaker prior to the meeting. If anything else is arranged at short notice then people will be emailed the details.

Congratulations to Craig Boath on stepping up to act as Head Greenkeeper of the championship course at Carnoustie, filling Sandy Reid's post after his promotion. Also to National Chairman Andy Mellon who is leaving to take up a position in Qatar. Andy has done a power of work, not only for the Association but also particularly for the Central Section and will be a difficult act to replace. Get a big house as you will have a lot of visitors in 2018 when Scotland are over playing in the world cup finals.

Colin Powrie from Ladybank

won the voucher for completing the online survey, apologies for the results not being on the website yet but everyone has been hard at work these past few weeks.

Finally the Pairs Competition is reaching the end of the league section and everyone seems to have enjoyed the games so far.

Gordon Moir



East

The East section committee met on 29 May to discuss the relevant points of interest. The next event is the Willie Woods trophy to be played on the fine golf course that is Mortonhall, remember it's a team event, so bring along a partner on 22 August and have a wonderful day's golf. The event this year is sponsored by Hendersons Grass Machinery (Haddington), so thanks to them for all their support.

The match against the secretaries was halved and a good day was had by all, 'thanks Des for stepping in at the last minute'.

Phil Bett a Greenkeeper at Kelso G.C is recovering from a very bad accident, whilst cycling to work a bus struck him. I believe he is in a wheel chair at the moment, so we wish him 'all the best' in his recovery.

Now our education guys want you to know about the proposed NPTC spraying course to be held at Murrayfield G.C on a date to be arranged in the back end of the season.

NPTC update course, pa1 pa2 and pa6

- The course if registered with GTC and the NRoSO

- 12 CPD points are awarded

- A copy of the code of practice for using plant protection products on cd and hardback

- Certificate of attendance

- Course split into 3 sessions over one day

- Practical assessment

Should you wish to attend the course, or need any other information, please contact: phil180.butler@virgin.net

Phil Butler was married on 5 May to his lovely wife Hazel, near North Berwick with the Bass Rock as a background. Apparently he had to hitch a lift from a farmer to his wedding as his car broke down, but he made it on time, well done to both of you. Congratulations to you both from all the section.

We the East section are sad to announce the passing of Mr. Duncan Herd. Duncan was a Life member, a regular at golf outings in his day and good friend to our older members including myself. Our thoughts and condolences go out to the family, he will be sadly missed.

Now George Oliver wants your feedback on a couple of social nights he is planning. The Jon Cluvers Club is the first, with comedians as the main show, or a competitive social night in Murrayfield Indoor Sports Club as the second event. Proposed dates are in October or November so please email: georgeoliver@yahoo.co.uk

So get in touch please and enjoy the summer months ahead

Stewart Crawford
s.crawford@live.co.uk

Northern Region



Northern

Morning guys.... Afternoon sports fans,

As I sit writing my notes the rain is banging down outside and looks like it's in for a while,

it's welcoming after having had the very hot couple of weeks at the end of May!!

Not much to tell you this month I'm afraid, but by the time these notes appear we will have played our 2nd event at Scarcroft for the President's day. We are hoping for a good turnout seeing as it's an afternoon kick off.

Finally a mention for the course manager at Chester Golf Club Stuart McCall for the condition of his greens I had the pleasure of playing a few weeks ago. They were fantastic considering he had closed the course the day before! Also to the guys at Henlle Golf Club and Llanymynech Golf Club down in Wales.... superb courses.

That's all folks...the Sheffield match up is coming next so if you wish to represent the section at Howley Hall please give me a buzz.

Cheers.

Andy Slingsby
07506407867

Andy.slingsby98@google-mail.com



North West

Hi all,

Well the weather here in the North West just gets worse by the day as summer is well and truly passing us by and mid-summer will have passed by the time you read these notes.

Not a lot happening this month except an incredible amount of Fusarium knocking around and greenkeepers scratching their heads whether to spray or not?

Thursday 14 June John Deere hosted the North West regional qualifier at Shaw Hill Golf Club, the winner goes through to the GB and Ireland final at Slaley

Hall in September, the winner of which gets a trip to USA for a world finals. Now that's a prize! So thanks must go to the sponsor Balmers Garden Machinery and Darren Barker our area rep for the hospitality also to Shaw Hill Golf Club for allowing the event to take place and last but not least Neil and his team of greenkeepers for presenting the course, beautifully!

Unfortunately our team at Penwortham Golf Club didn't win but as the last teams had not arrived in I will only be able to bring you the winners in next months 'around the green'

There have been a couple of new starters at Mere Golf Club for Gwynn Davies the Course Manager, so good luck to Lee Whittaker and Lee Burton.

Lastly a couple of apologies to make in last months piece it was quoted that the Head Greenkeeper of Leasowe Golf Club was a Chris Peddie well this was wrong information, the Head Greenkeeper of Leasowe Golf Club is Ian Turner so thanks to Ian for the day at Leasowe. Chris is at Wallasey Golf Club so my apologies to both of you.

One thing I won't be apologising for, even though it apparently hasn't gone down well is wishing a friend luck in last months piece for his application for a job promotion at a golf club he is already at!

Anyway it is currently 4 am so if there are any mistakes this month please contact me personally I cant put things right if I hear on the grapevine. This also applies to the notes, I really do need people to pass me any information so I can ensure you get a mention.

Regards Spencer Lloyd-Pye
Spencer@lloyd-pye.freeserve.co.uk



North Wales

The weather hasn't really been on our side so far this year, a red-hot end to the winter followed by a wet and cold spell (which put paid to our spring tournament!) and then wet, wet, wet. I'm sure if this summer carries on this way we're all going to develop webbed feet and gills.

Due to the weather the spring tournament is now going to be the 'two days before the summer solstice' tournament, let's

hope this one isn't rained off or there won't be any North Wales qualifiers for the National. Full results and write up next month and pictures as normal on our Facebook group.

The North Wales v North West tournament at Lymm Golf Club has been rearranged to 7 August due to clerical errors, I hope anyone invited to play will do their utmost to help us keep the trophy in Welsh hands.

The inaugural North Wales v South Wales match takes place at Aberdovey Golf Club on 27 July. I hope anyone that goes puts a good show of North Welsh metal there as well.

I think that's about it for now, as always I do look forward to hearing from you and all your news.

All the best,
Pete Maybury, E-mail
petemayb66@aol.com Phone or
Text 07756001187.

Facebook group North Wales
b.i.g.g.a



Sheffield

Hi everyone,

My apologies for the shortage of news over the last couple of months, things have been a little hectic to say the least. As an apology I have a stack of news to bring you this month.

Firstly I have a couple of congratulations. Joel France and his new wife Lindsay tied the knot back in June and I'm sure he will have had a wonderful day. May you both have a happy life together and enjoy all the decorating! Secondly I would like to congratulate Andy Riley and his wife Becky on the birth of their daughter Eloise, enjoy those sleepless nights Andy!

Our spring competition was held at Hickleton Golf Club and we had a really enjoyable day, thanks to Bob and his staff for presenting an excellent course despite the unfavorable weather conditions leading to the event. I would like to thank Pro Turf for once again sponsoring the day and I would also like to thank all members and trade who attended the day. Remember everyone, there are pictures from the day on our Facebook page.

Our next competition will be held at Rotherham Golf Club on 12 October, everyone will

be receiving invitations and it would be nice to see a few new faces. If anyone is not receiving any information that we post out for any events then please get in touch and we can try and rectify the problem.

Stewart Pigott will be trying to complete a 24hr golf challenge in August for Weston Park Cancer Charity if any members would like to sponsor him for what is an extremely worthy cause then you can do so via the following link, all donations will be greatly appreciated. <http://www.just-giving.com/Stewart-Pigott>

That is all from me for now good luck for the month of July and see you all in August.

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Facebook - biggasheffield
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Midland Region

Midland

I shall begin this month's waffle with the wonderful news of a new arrival. Jim Gilchrist.

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Around The Green

thanks to Simon White and his team for their great efforts. As always a special thank you to all of our sponsors of the day; Campey Turfcare for the main prize table, Sherriff Amenity, Sharrocks and Whitemoss for the nearest the pin prizes, Farols for the much needed beverages around the course and all other trade members who brought raffle prizes. The results of the day were awarded as follows; 1st Gross: Adam Jones, 1st Nett: Roger Bannard 36pts, 2nd: Aaron Saunders 35pts, 3rd: Clint Eastwood, sorry Woodall 34pts. Best Category's 1: A.Jones. 2: D.Fellows. 3: A.Brougham. Trade winner:

P.McCrainor. Nearest the pins were won by Mike Hughes x2, Roger Bannard and Paul Mills-ey.

The draw for the 1st and 2nd rounds of the Everris Doubles event took place after the golf and a full review of the draw, including play by dates and rules are available on our website, www.biggamidlandsection.co.uk <<http://www.biggamidlandsection.co.uk>>

This month's kind calendar sponsor is our old friend Burrows Grass Machinery. Please consider them for all your Ransomes and Jacobsen machinery needs. They can be contacted on: Midlands Depot 01785 666 100 or Northern Depot 01565 880 800. I must confess that the lines on this month's picture are superb, well done to the Greenkeeper responsible.

And finally to conclude, there is our summer education trip to Tillers Turf Farm on 25 July, please contact Tony Cheese for further details on 07778 665 506. Also good luck to all at the summer Golf Event at Oxley Park on the 11th of this month.

Just time to wish H.Q's ex-Editor Scott MacCallum all the best in his new venture. It has been my pleasure to have worked with you over the last 12 years. Mad men rule O.K.

Sean McDade.

the best for the future Peter.

Our latest golf day was held on Thursday May 24 at Cleethorpes Golf Club. For the first time in living memory the wind, which usually affects play, actually dropped and all at the seaside enjoyed a warm sunny day. The course was presented in excellent condition by Rob Welford and his staff, particularly the greens which continued to prove that they are the best in the area (Immingham are right behind you though!). We were well looked after by the Cleethorpes catering staff with everyone enjoying the fish and chips provided. The day was sponsored by LMS Lincoln through Dave and Joe, who continue to support our section.

The results of the day were as follows: -

1st, Russ Moody; 2nd, Mervyn Davies; 3rd, Rob Welford; Trade: Martyn Lumb; Nearest the Pin: Carl Chamberlain

Longest Drive: Ben Lowry (Change to the usual Messrs Bemment and Welford!)

Finally congratulations to Rob Bemment, Steve Hopkins and Bruce Hicks for their selection for this year's Open Support Team. Also joining them is Sean Sullivan from our twinned GCSAA Peaks and Praries Chapter.

Many thanks, Steve Beverly, Immingham Golf Club.

David Langheim course manager at Wimbledon Park G.C has been rewarded for all his hard work by becoming the 61st Master Greenkeeper. Many congratulations Dave from all Surrey section members.

Flaming June has been postponed so we look forward to a warm and sunny November. Yesterday many Surrey courses were closed due to the unwelcome and continuous downpours in the South East and passing the river Mole at Cobham I could just make out the tops of the riverside benches. Fortunately none were occupied but for the second time this year they have had a thorough cleaning.

I do hope that the rain stops for all your sakes and please believe me, my hope has nothing to do with my imminent holiday, you've guessed it, The Isle of Wight. For full reports of my adventures there please send the usual donation, cash would be preferred.

Brian Willmott

Brian.willmott@hotmail.co.uk



Kent

After our football team's last trouncing some four years ago many thought that our best times on the pitch had long since past. That was however, until our Essex counterparts challenged Kent's finest to come out of retirement and do battle at the academy of football of Upton Park!

Well, how could we refuse?! A team quickly made themselves available for selection for such a prestigious event and a memorable day ensued. After meeting early doors at Redlibbits Golf Club for breakfast (where were the BBC?) the team coach left for the journey through town to West Ham. Thousands of cars joined us in the procession through Blackwall tunnel as we neared the hallowed turf. We were met at the stadium by Head Groundsman Shane O'Brien and escorted into the 'Away' dressing room. A quick change and discussion about who wants to play where ensured

BIGGA welcomes the following new members

Scotland

Gareth Evans, North Section
Scott McClenaghan, North Section
John McKerracher, North Section
Shaun McLaren, Central Section
James Naylor, Central Section
Eamon Sullivan, Central Section
Andrew Terras, East Section
Gregor Wilson, Ayrshire Section

Northern Region

Lloyd Balazs, North West Section
Neil Dixon, North West Section
Ian Hanson, North West Section
Matthew Johnson, North Wales Section
Marc Lewis, North Wales Section
John Meredith, Northern Section
Tim Murphy, Northern Section
John Phillips, North East Section
Nick Roberts, North Wales Section
James Rutter, North West Section

Midland Region

Roger Bannard, Midland Section
Daniel Davy, BB&O Section
Josh Dunn, MidlandSection
Carl Gordon, Mid Anglia Section
Thomas Hayes, Midland Section
Ian Jones, East Midland Section
Tonderai Kennedy Nyemba, BB&O Section
Ben Koracevic, BB&O Section
Oliver Lochman, BB&O Section
Anthony Mills, BB&O Section
Danny Morten, BB&O Section
Daniel Mounteney, BB&O Section
Anthony North, BB&O Section
Scott Osler, BB&O Section
Matthew Parker, BB&O Section
Kieran Poff, BB&O Section
Paul Reeves, Midland Section
Ston Robinson, BB&O Section
Daniel Spencer, BB&O Section
Stuart Swift, BB&O Section
Daryl Vanterpool, BB&O Section
Paul Walton, BB&O Section

South East Region

James Bruder, Surrey Section
Luke Harman, Surrey Section
Charles Hunt, East Anglia Section
Ryan Mochrie, Kent Section
Tom Shattock, London Section
Craig Ward, Sussex Section

South West & South Wales Region

Adam Malone, South Coast Section
Alan Gawman, Devon & Cornwall Section
Bradley Hicks, South West Section
Chris McMillan, South Coast Section

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



East of England

I would like to start this month by wishing Peter Larter a long and happy retirement. On behalf of our section I would like to pass on our thanks for all the support he has given to us on both golf days and section seminars. Whilst his presence will be missed we look forward to welcoming our new regional administrator Sandra Raper and working with her to take both the section and the region forward. In honour of the work Peter has done for us it has been decided that a the winner of our golf order of merit will now be presented with a trophy donated in his honour as well as receiving the blazer which will still be kindly sponsored by Simon Banks. Once again all

South East Region



Surrey

May 22 was the date for our spring meeting and qualifier for the national tournament. Blackmoor G.C was the venue and Lee Blackburn, who used his local knowledge was our winner, followed by Mike Lake and in third place the unforgettable Paul Weston. John Mathis recorded the best gross score. Qualifiers for the national tournament are Lee Blackburn and Kevin Boxall. Many thanks to James Norris and his team for an excellent course and to Blackmoor G.C for looking after us so well.

we were as ready as we were ever going to be for the match. However a five-minute warm up then ensured we weren't.

We feared an early onslaught from the more experienced Essex team but a combination of poor long-range shooting and cat-like reflexes of the incumbent Kent man between the sticks kept the Northerners at bay. Then, hitting them hard on the break a superb cross was powerfully headed home by Wayne Syers to put us 1 up. Further great defending and attacking saw Mark Todd put through just before the break to put us 2 up.

After the break play resumed and Kent's defence was finally undone by an Essex free kick from the corner of the penalty box. The low, in-swinging shot was pushed onto the post by the Cat but only to bounce straight back out in front of goal to the following Essex attack who were more alive to the ball than our defence. A simple slot in put the score at 2-1. Shortly after, Kent's defence were left scratching heads again after a quick short corner by Essex and the attack shot through the legs of a multitude of players stood in front of the unsighted keeper, 2-2 and game back on.

Ten minutes or so before the end another Kent attack broke down the left saw Zaffer the Turk fire home a great left foot volley to put the score 3-2 to us and, despite Essex throwing everything at us to re-level the scores, Kent hung on to seal victory.

Many thanks to all who took part, the Essex section for hosting and especially to Larry Pearman and Lely UK for sponsoring the event including suitable post-match refreshments in the Billy Bonds suite.

We also had a golf day last month. This was held at the lovely West Kent Golf Club superbly presented for us by Darren Burdis and his great team at West Kent. Despite most of us having never visited this fine course before many managed to score well on a very hot day on a course that demands high levels of accuracy and fitness!

Everyone I spoke to was very complimentary of the great course and welcome extended to us by the club. A great dinner too rounded off a great day for us at West Kent. Many thanks

for being such gracious hosts. Results as follows: 1st Ian Rawlings (36pts), 2nd Aaron Launchbury (36pts), 3rd (Paul Larsen (35pts), Trade Prize won by Rob Holland, Near pin by Darren Burdis and Longest Drive by Jamie O'Connell.

We've taken loads of names now for our summer pairs knockout tournament but still open for more if you would like to take part. You don't both need to be from the same club and trade members are welcome to join in too. Please get in touch ASAP to be part of this great event.

More details and pictures from the football on our website: www.kentgreenkeepers.com

Best of British
Rob Holland

South West and South Wales



South West

I hope that everyone is well. This month is going to be a little shorter than usual, this is me hinting at you guys to forward me some short stories about what is happening around the section.

I don't like doing this, but I have to start on a sensitive subject...the section visited Clevedon Golf earlier this month, captained by the steady, clam and collective Wayne Vincent. As always, the section took a strong team, on what was a steaming hot day, we just didn't match up to the weather, losing 5-1. However, I would like to thank the secretaries for a great match, and we will be see you again next year. This isn't normal for us, I can ensure you it will not happen again...sorry captain!!

Our next match is with the Welsh section and will be played at Royal Porthcawl on Friday 10 August. If you are keen to play please contact section captain Wayne Vincent, after our last performance... there is a good chance you will get a game.

As for the section, Thursday

4 October will be our next event, our AGM and will take place at Bristol & Clifton Golf Club.

Now for the important subject that is happening in the world at the moment, Euro 12, what a great start...magic is the word! I am tipping Germany to win with Gomez top goal scorer?

We would also like to thanks our patronage partners for 2012, Farmura, Countrywide, Headland, Eco-solve, TH White, Irrtech Ltd, Avoncrop.

We also have a Facebook page for the southwest section, that will make it much more convenient for you all to use, you don't have to do anything, just enjoy this amazing feature you have at your fingertips.

adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk



South Wales

Good Morning South Wales. In my time in South Wales I have seen many visitors to our golf courses including the Royals, International sports stars and many more celebrities but our latest visitor tops the list for me. Bryn Meadows Golf Club played host to one of the unlikeliest visitors in history an EMU!! Second in size to the ostrich it popped in for a few holes over the weekend of 21 May, unfortunately she was asked to leave because she didn't have a handicap certificate! Eventually she was reunited with her owner who was based at a small holding just a mile away.

Congratulations again to Jim Mackenzie and his team for setting up a fantastic Handa Wales Open. The course, as always in magnificent condition and with the drying conditions prior to the event it made the course play in a slightly different manor with ball striking needing to be played to some tough pin positions set by the European Tour. Congratulations Jim in not only having a successful 13th Wales Open Tournament but also passing a personal milestone... the big 50 on the Thursday of the event, Happy Birthday.

Assistant Profile

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

Name:

Andrew Ross

Age: 36

Club:

Thornhill

Position:

First

Assistant

Nickname:

Floss



1. How long have you been greenkeeping?

17 years

2. What was it about the career that attracted you?

Working outdoors and being on a golf course all day

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

Firefighter (I do this on a retained basis just now)

4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?

Hand cutting greens, you get a nice early morning stroll

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

Strimming, hurts the back

6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot?

More communication with members so they understand our job better

7. Hobbies?

Darts and Bowling

8. Favourite Band?

Iron Maiden

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

Nottingham Forest

10. What is your claim to fame?

Believe it or not but Im actually a qualified Financial Advisor aswell!

Around The Green

Our spring competition was held over the well-manicured Greenmeadow Golf Course. Numbers for this event unfortunately hit an all-time low mainly in my opinion the weather changing and many of you guys having to play catch up in keeping the growth levels down nevertheless an exciting competition took place. Eventually Stuart Ross of Brecon Golf Club ran out clear winner with ever present Andy roach in second and Gareth Knight back in third. Longest drive was again one by Big D however it wasn't his normal massive best, struggling with a rib cartilage injury he struggled around the golf course and at the longest drive he hit the lowest worm burning drive I have ever seen which ended up 300yds plus! Nearest the pin was won by Clive Moran now of Tredegar Park. A big thank you to Green Meadow Golf Club for their generous hospitality shown and presenting the golf course in great shape.

Unfortunately a negative bit of news to report we have had to cancel the Rigby Taylor Matchplay competition for the first time since the event started over 15 years ago due to lack of teams to enter the event I guess

down to pressures of work and the weather not helping things again.

This year as most of you should be aware we have started the patronage scheme where all supporting trade companies pay a nominal fee rather than an individual company sponsoring golf and educational events, this would allow the section more money to spend on prizes at the golf days, to support an individual to attend BTME and to attract better speakers to attend education days or evenings. Without greenkeepers supporting all events it does make it harder to attract further sponsors and being able maintain the level of support the Trade companies give us. I know that time is precious in the work place and we therefore are looking at ways to tempt people back out to all events so please if anyone has any suggestions on how to improve what we are doing please contact myself, Gareth Knight or any of the patron companies to forward your ideas. Sorry to have a rant but that's all from me keep it green!!

Kind Regards
Peter Holmstrom
07732503855

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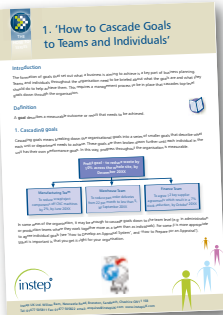


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