

## Section Notes

Please email your notes to  
[scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk)  
by the 15th  
of the month

All the latest news from your Section

# Around The Green



## Scotland



### Central

The Section had an enjoyable day at Crail for their spring outing with over 50 players participating on a course that was in excellent condition. Although the overnight and early morning weather was grim, by the time golf started it was a pretty decent day. The full list of winners are on the website, but by the principal the winners on the day were as follows:

Best Scratch, Gordon Moir, St Andrews Links, beating Stuart Robertson, Strathmore Golf Centre by a shot. Best overall nett, Kenny Mitchell, St Andrews Links. Paul Murphy of Fife Golf Trust won the 1st section and Shaun Anderson, Piperdam, won the 2nd. Kevin Brunton from Greentech won the trade prize. Our thanks go to Crail Golfing Society their staff and our Patrons for making the day such a success. The 2012 Pairs competition is well underway and again results are on the website.

Congratulations to Sandy Reid who will be succeeding John Philp at Carnoustie Golf Links after John retires at the end of June.

There are a couple of dates for educational events. Eric Lyons of Guelph Uni in Canada will give a talk at Elmwood at the beginning of June while John Kaminski and Rick Latin from Penn State and Purdue Universities respectively will give one on 12 July, also at Elmwood.

The results of the survey carried out recently will be analysed, this along with more information on the talks will be on the website. Thanks to all

who took part.

[www.biggacentralsection.org.uk](http://www.biggacentralsection.org.uk)  
or join us on Facebook,  
Regards,  
Gordon Moir



### East

Well gents, we had our spring outing at the Glen last Tuesday and the weather was perfectly acceptable this time in comparison to the stormy day we had originally planned. Thirty-three attended and here is a list of all the winners:

Scratch winner 68 gross Philip Butler, Murrayfield Golf Club

1st class winner Keith Burgon, Hirsell Golf Club

Runner up, Grant Moran Mortonhall Golf Club

2nd class winner Stuart Ferguson, Dundas Park Golf Club

Runner up, Ryan McCulloch, Goswick Golf Club

3rd class winner Kenneth Mason, Longniddry Golf Club

Veterans winner Aalister Holmes, Seahouses Golf Club

Best Nett winner Scott Corrigan, Greenburn Golf Club

Apprentice prize James Balmbrro, Hirsell Golf Club

Trade winner, Stewart Clayton, Greensman limited

Novelty prizes nearest the pin at the 13th hole, Pat Allan, Symbio

Longest drive at the 18th hole, James Johnston, Greenburn Golf Club

The Glen was very hospitable and Des Kerr, Course Manager, and his staff had the course in top condition. I played with the Captain Mr. Mike Curry, who was very impressed with the way we, as a section, went about our business, so well done to all of you for attending and I hope you all enjoyed your day. Well

done to George Stavert again for making it on the day, but next time bring your clubs George. A big thanks again to Stuart Ferguson for all the administration and planning on the day. Hopefully we will see the sun soon and get some heat from it to help the links grow as this last month has been too cold, fingers crossed.

Stewart Crawford  
[s.crawford@live.co.uk](mailto:s.crawford@live.co.uk)



### West

Just a couple of things to mention for the section news, the main item being the recent retirement of Peter Boyd as regional administrator after 14 years of service. Peter finished on the 20 April and the west section committee had a small get together of all those people who had been involved with him over the years through committee work. A dinner was arranged at the citation restaurant in town and 12 people from the west turned up along with 4 from the Ayrshire section, all in attendance appeared to enjoy themselves and were delighted to be part of the evening. The section would like to wish Peter an enjoyable retirement and hope we that he can enjoy some more time with his wife Eleanor and the family.

I attended the annual match against the secretaries on Luffness New course on 8 May. The course was absolutely superb for the time of year and David Coull explained all the different projects he had completed over the last few years to help improve the course. I thoroughly enjoyed the course and the company and even better, the greenkeepers won. I would like to express my thanks to all those

involved in the day which helped make it such a success: Stuart Greenwood, Peter Boyd, Tony Yates, Brian and Julie Denholm and the house staff.

The next big event to consider is the Scottish National Tournament over Ratho Park golf club on the 20 June; entries have to be submitted to the head office at Aldwark Manor.

I will report on the spring outing results in the next issue and once again if anybody has any information for me could they please get in contact on [stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com](mailto:stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com) or by mobile on 07790823914 or 0141 94 5554.

Hope you have a good season,  
Stuart Taylor



### Ayrshire

The spring outing of the Ayrshire section, which includes Dumfries and Galloway, was held on arguably the best municipal golf course in the UK, Belleisle in Ayr, on Tuesday 1, May.

The course was in excellent condition thanks to the efforts of Billy, Kevin and the rest of the greenkeeping team, and the weather was kind for a wee change, especially after the rigours of Turnberry in the autumn.

The scoring reflected this as four players beat their handicap on the day. The prize winners were: First class winner - William Mcmeikan 38 points, 2nd - David Nelson 37 points, 3rd - Ian McDonald 35 points, 4th - Ian Barr 34 points. Second class winner - David Wason 40 points, 2nd - Gregor Wilson 33 points, 3rd - Martin Lothian 30 points, 4th - Barry Crate 24 points. Stewart Clayton won the trade prize with a score that suggests

he spends plenty of time on the golf course!

The Section would like to extend their thanks to South Ayrshire Council for allowing us the use of the Belleisle golf course, always an enjoyable experience. As there are only limited catering facilities at Belleisle we retired to the Abbotsford hotel, where we enjoyed an excellent two-course meal in a private room, so thanks to all the staff in the hotel for looking after us. I'm sure it will be recommended as a good venue by everyone in attendance.

The only other news I have is that George Morrison is doing a bit of bird watching, looking out for that elusive stork arriving, hopefully with a soft landing George.

The BIGGA national tournament is at Bogside this year on the 8 and 9 of October, so get it in your diary and let's have a good turn out from the section.

If there is anything happening on your course, or with our members in Ayrshire, or anything else that may be of interest, please get in touch with me by e-mail on [duncan@lawnsforyou.com](mailto:duncan@lawnsforyou.com).

All the best for the season.

## Northern Region



### North East

I shall remember April 18, 2012, at South Shields G. C. for a long time, and it's not just me, but also other members of the Committee of the North East Section, as it was the worst turn out ever for a Competition. I don't know what the answer is; we have tried changing the day of the week and teeing off time, yet still we struggle. Wouldn't it be nice if we could get just one person from a golf club where they have more than one member of the Association, What a difference that would make.

Now getting back to Competition; what a pleasure it was to play the course, which is kept in excellent condition by Phil Hargave and his staff. The greens were superb and I reckon you wont see any better than them this year despite having the driest March on record and the wettest April. Lucky for us it only rained for the first hour,

but another ten minutes and we would have walked off it was that bad, but we carried on and enjoyed the rest of the course. Thank you to the catering staff for the great meal.

Now for the scores: Best Gross - J. Gibson 79, Northumberland GC, Best Nett R. Reid 72 on count back. J.S.Richardson 72, R. Black 87.

Thank you to Glen Baxter of Rigby Taylor and Alan Morton of T.S.L. and Wearside GC for donating prizes on the day.

I have received news from Tommy Harrison, Gosforth GC, of movement from his place; Andy Jeffries has left and become a self-employed landscaper, Chris Walker been promoted to first assistant and Connor Bush has been taken on as an apprentice; good luck to you all

That's it for another month; let's hope that we start getting some sunshine and not as much rain.

Jimmy Richardson



### Northern

Well here we go folks, the section golf days are under-way. The forecast for the first event at Easingwold was pretty poor, but 30 of us mad golfers made the effort. A huge thanks and my respect to you guys who made it, we got a little wet, but eh we are used to it!

Even bigger thanks go to Easingwold golf club for allowing us to play and of course Andre and the boys for working so hard to present a great course in testing conditions. We had a fantastic prize table provided by John Hughes the pro, which was kindly sponsored by Sherriff Amenity and the lovely Rebecca, thank you very much indeed.

Congratulations to Dave Collins who cleaned up by winning the Division one trophy and the Scratch trophy...

Div one: 1st Dave Collins, 2nd Stu Mason, 3rd A baxter

Div two: 1st R. Smith, 2nd N Booth, 3rd F Stewart

Div three: 1st G Street, 2nd J Baxter, 3rd J Rowbottom

Nearest pins: Stu Mason & A Scaman; Trade prize winner: I Collitt. The next event will be The Presidents day at Scarcroft golf club on the 27 June with a 1.30 tee off, so come on guys

put a shift in and come and support the section. We will be having a brisk EGM regarding the Treasurers position, we have a candidate who has come forward, but if anybody else fancies the role please let me know.

On the fixture list you all have we noticed a wee error, the Sheffield match up will be played at Howley Hall and not Meltham as stated. Whoops. Anybody wishing to play in this please let me no asap, or I will be pestering you lot at the next event.

And finally I end with some lovely news about our committee member Richard Smith, he and Elizebeth are expecting there 2nd child in October! Congratulations big fellow, you never know we might have a whip round and get you some new golf shoes! He plays and works in his white golf shoes; I think they were white.

Last but not least, it was great to see Ben and Steve from Scarborough make it to Easingwold, fantastic effort boys.

Any goss, news, please let me know... Any of you guys successful in getting on to the open support team?

Andy Slingsby, 07506407867  
[Slingsbyfamily@virginmedia.com](mailto:Slingsbyfamily@virginmedia.com) ; Facebook Andy Slingsby (spiderman)



### North West

Hi all,

Well the golf season is certainly up and running and we've had the spring tournament, which was held at Leasowe GC. A turn out of about 30 played in good conditions on this seaside links. First of all let me thank Leasowe GC for the courtesy of the course, the catering staff for the meal and the Head greenkeeper Chris Peddie and his staff for the presentation, which made it such an enjoyable day.

The winner was Craig Morris with a score of 36points, which was a three-way tie. Triumphant with a back 9 count back with two other competitors who were John Mcgloughlin and Chris Gibson.

The longest drive and nearest pin prizes were picked up by Billy Merritt and John Mcloughlin. Well done to everybody on the day.

There are a couple of people moving this month; Neil olferey is moving out of our area and down to Exeter, so good luck

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Worzel with the new life down south. With any luck his able deputy Damian will get the promotion he deserves, but hey we are in the golf industry.

Matt Shimwell is leaving Hopwood GC to work under deputy manager, Gwynn Davies, at The Mere GC, so good luck Matt.

Mere GC has had a busy month they also held a GTC H&S day, which was very well attended.

The next golf event will be played in June at Lymm GC for its North West v North Wales Team match. By this time you will all have your fixture lists as they have been sent out, but if anybody would like more information please contact Chris Sheehan.

On a lighter note, I had a chat with Paul Smith, Course Manager at Royal Lytham, this week and me, being on a Parkland, bemoaning the constant rain we seem to be getting in the North West, well Paul being on a links thinks it great apart from the fact that the ROUGH is getting a little thick and very penal, something for the pro's to think about as the Open Championship closes in.

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



## North Wales

Let's all hope that, now mid-summer is here, we can finally have some summer, because April and the beginning of May were hardly anything to get excited about. The spring tournament at Llangollen was a complete washout; thankfully everyone took the day and disappointment in their stride and stayed for a drink and meal in the clubhouse. Although no meaningful golf was played on the day, I know we all enjoyed the meal, had a good chin-wag and a laugh. The golf has been rearranged to the 19 June. Anyone who paid to be on the original day will play free of charge, on a play only basis, food will not be included on the day. Anyone who would like to fill spots left vacant by replay drop outs will only have to pay towards the prize fund and ball sweep and

organise your own refreshment options with the catering staff.

A big thank you goes to Phil, Gaynor and the rest of the hospitality staff for their hard work and patience in feeding us all at once with some rather excellent food when they were organised on a completely different format.

Thank you also to Bob Hardy who came up with alternate dates as soon as we had to cancel.

In other news we welcome Jason Moody back from the dark side to greenkeeping as he has taken a position at The Plassey Leisure Park, welcome back Jason!

I think that's about it for now, but I would like to hear from you all, please feel free to text, call or e-mail your news. All the best until next month,

Pete Maybury, e-mail, petemayb66@aol.com Mobile 07756001187 Facebook group North Wales B.I.G.G.A

## Midland Region



### East Midlands

As the hose pipe ban got into full swing and the rivers and reservoirs started rapidly filling up following the coldest, wettest April for over twenty years the East Midlands Section played our Spring Tournament at Scraftoft Golf Club on Thursday 26 April. Many courses around the area had been closed due to the extreme weather conditions but Nigel White and his team, through lots of hard work, produced an excellent golf course for the day. A well supported day, although there is always room for more people, saw Russell Allen claim the Category 1 prize with Rob 'local knowledge' Duval and Adi Porter finishing second and third respectfully. In Category 2 Andy Marsh took first place, with Adrian Henshaw and James McShane also in the prizes. An East Midlands golf competition wouldn't be complete without Garry Thurman picking up a prize in the Trade/Associates category. Garry has continued to support this section for many years and his consistency is beginning to

gain legendary status, especially in the raffle!

Tacit sponsored the Nearest the Pin and Longest Drives for which the section is extremely grateful and was won by Russell Allen (again!)(NTP) and Adrian Henshaw (LD) for the greenkeepers and Mick Marvel won Longest Drive for the Trade/Associates. Unfortunately no one from Trade/Associates managed to hit the green on their respective Nearest the Pin hole. The committee are also extremely grateful to the sponsors of the day for their generosity, Sherriff Amenity, Campey, Platts Harris and Henton & Chattell and also to Scraftoft Golf Club who produced a first class meal and were also excellent hosts. It was noted that the menu didn't include brussel sprouts this year... you know who you are!

So the Jubilee Bank Holiday has past us by now, all the bunting and ill fitting Union Jack hats are packed away, until Prince Harry gets spliced at least, and we can hopefully look forward to a good summer with happy golfers on our courses. The April wet weather, although inconvenient, was very welcome, and with temperatures slowly starting to rise there is definitely the prospect of the country experiencing proper seasonal weather for the first time in many years.

On a final note invites to Nailcote Hall for our Rigby Taylor sponsored Par 3 Competition will be out in the not too distant future, we are trying more and more to email invites because of the cost of postage so please make sure that we have your correct email address on file. You can easily update us by emailing your details to big-gaeastmid@gmail.com and we can keep you informed of events/matters within your section. That's about it for now, the next issue will be my last... before the Olympics!

Thank you for calling,  
Greg Skinner  
07970 095264



## Midland

Well after the unseasonably dry and hot March/April, the old prophecy of "it won't know when to stop raining when it comes" has finely come true. There is nothing quite as rewarding as raking sodden wet sand day after day, I don't think! Such wet weather reminds me of an old boy from Harborne, George Noyce/Formby son. When sent out to mow banking's etc. on his Tri-king in the rain, under great sufferance and complaint I might add, he would take an umbrella with him. Who did he think he was, Mary Poppins? It was so funny though.

I hope that by the time our summer event is here on 11 July at Oxley Park G.C. that we have had some sunshine to warm our backs. I should be able to report the spring results in next month's notes.

This month's calendar sponsor is ALS. They offer a multitude of services including Course Equipment, Contract Works, Turf Care Products and Machinery Servicing etc. For their full range please visit: [www.amenity.co.uk](http://www.amenity.co.uk) or Tel: 01952 641 949.

Sean McDade.



## BB&O

As summer approaches and the golfing season kicks into full swing hopefully many of you will have managed to get your courses in to shape and completed all renovation/maintenance work in what must be the wettest start to any drought on record! That said those of you impacted by the hosepipe ban will be enjoying the respite and are no doubt breathing a sigh of relief. As ever we have little control over the biggest influencing factor – the weather! We wait to see what summer brings.

Kirtlington GC played host to this year's BB&O Section Spring Cup. The day was well supported

with yet another fantastic turn-out. A special mention must go to Brett Moggridge and his team at Kirtlington who produced superb playing surfaces and a cracking course, which presented a great test and golfing challenge. After some strong scoring throughout the field and despite recent shoulder surgery, Adam King was crowned the winner (on count back) with 36 points, second was Dan Lightfoot, and third place going to Phil Beeny. The nearest the pin on the 4th went to Graham Gardener, nearest the pin on the 16th went to Paul Young and the longest drive on the 18th went to Phil Beeny. A big thank you must go to the John Deere dealerships of Godfreys Golf and Turf and Farel's who jointly sponsored the entire day. Their support is greatly appreciated and without them the golf days could not happen. Full results can be viewed on the section website: [www.bbo-greenkeepers.co.uk](http://www.bbo-greenkeepers.co.uk) In other news from around the section, Peter Larter is retiring at the end of the month and so steps down from his post as Northern and Midland Regional Officer.

We would like to wish him well and thank him for all his work and effort over the years supporting BIGGA and in particular the BB&O Section. The BIGGA Midland Regional Educational Conference had to be postponed, however it is to be rearranged for a date later in the year. The Buckinghamshire Golf Club is hosting The Ladies British Masters 15-18 August and is looking for volunteers to help with the support team. Anyone who is interested please contact the Course Manager: [andy.ewence@buckinghamshiregc.co.uk](mailto:andy.ewence@buckinghamshiregc.co.uk)

The next Section golf day is to be held at Temple Golf Club. Dates, entry forms, including the Rigby Taylor pairs knock-out competition, jobs and information can be found at the BB&O website.

If anyone has any news, views or ideas for the BB&O section then please don't hesitate to get in touch: [bbo-scribe@gmail.com](mailto:bbo-scribe@gmail.com) or contact the committee/Matt Nutter: [bbosecretary@gmail.com](mailto:bbosecretary@gmail.com)

Or keep up to date with the BB&O section by following us on Twitter, Facebook and the website: [www.bbo-greenkeepers.co.uk](http://www.bbo-greenkeepers.co.uk)

## South East Region



### East Anglia

Here we go again then. Our rather small, but perfectly formed band braved the wind and the rain and all had a very good day at Waldringfield. My personal memories of Waldringfield were three portacabins and a course in its infancy. An absolutely terrific clubhouse has replaced the portacabins and the course has developed into a good test of golf, which is maturing nicely – (just like me some say, others tell the truth!) Thanks in no small part to Keith Tishall and his crew.

Some managed to stay out of the gorse, unlike me who is still pulling thorns from my backside. They are as follows:

0-9 Handicap: 1st Jonathan Smart, 36 Points, 2nd Nick Brewster, 35 Points. 10-18 Handicap: 1st Chris Davies, 37 Points, 2nd Toni Thacker, 33 Points. 19-28 Handicap – Real Golfers: 1st Andy Baker, 40 Points, 2nd Keith Tishall, 37 Points. Trade & Guests: 1st Trevor Hurn, 40 Points, 2nd, Steve Creasey, 39 Points. Nearest Pin: Nick Brewster. Longest Drive: Chris Davies. Loo Seat – Mike Virley: While practising thinned one and nearly destroyed the Pro shop. Nice one!

The main sponsors of the day were Bartram and Ransomes Jacobson and the prizes were presented by Nigel Church.

Other sponsors were Aitkens, Tacit, Toro, Collier Turf Care, Brian Lindores and Headland.

Thanks again Waldringfield for a lovely, if a little damp day, Steve Creasey for his welcoming speech and the catering staff for the welcoming meal.

Pause for thought: I recently heard of a professional taking over the running of a course. The person telling me said: "Well he is a professional and he should know how to make good greens"! My reply was "Bobby Charlton was a great footballer, but I bet he couldn't mark the pitch out".

Mick Lathrope



### Surrey

Monday May 7. Where has this month gone too? It seems only yesterday that I wrote last month's report. So, to stop me saying the same thing next month, I ought to write July's tomorrow! If that hasn't confused you, it has me. They say that no news is good news, but when one has to keep avid readers happy every month it isn't, so come on all of you lot out there give me news, news!

Anthony Freeman has been appointed course manager at Merrist Wood GC and I am sure that he will make it a successful move. Best wishes from all members of Surrey section.

Chelsea beat Liverpool in the cup final; you have only yourselves to blame when I have to resort to football results. Tony Bremer has only just recovered from deep depression after watching the game while Ian Sellers is still buying everyone drinks.

My new home in Dorking is improving daily and since no longer driving around the South East of England every day I have lost over a stone in weight. Is it a new diet? No it's since semi retirement I can't afford a decent meal!

My old 5th form class had a re-union after leaving school 50 years ago. Unlike me my class mates all looked so ancient as did our school. The building has the same floors, doors and central heating system as when we left it in 1962. The school is now all girls and several of us were interviewed by the pupils about life when we were inmates and how the capital punishment, cane, slipper and blackboard rubber were the daily norm and as our teachers said, would benefit us for future life. We even had a visit from our old history master, Brian Bunker; you can probably guess his nickname.

That's it until Blackmore GC for the next golf day and the result of which will occupy space in July's jottings.

Brian Willmott

[Brian.willmott@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Brian.willmott@hotmail.co.uk)

## Assistant Profile

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

**Name:** James Bledge  
**Age:** 32  
**Club:** gWest  
**Position:** Senior Greenkeeper  
**Nickname:** Bledger



**1. How long have you been greenkeeping?** 15 years

**2. What was it about the career that attracted you?** Being involved in golf, working out doors and working with tractors!

**3. If you weren't a greenkeeper what do you think you'd be?** I'd probably be a farmer, although I'd love to have been a golf course photographer or a musician!

**4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?** Using excavators during course construction, I get a great deal of satisfaction and sense of achievement from seeing the finished article.

**5. Which task do you least enjoy doing and why?** Picking stones, gWest is a new build and even though we have 97% grass cover they just keep coming to the surface! I have never seen so many stones! If I never see another stone again it will be too soon!

**6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot?** In our region (Perthshire, Scotland) a little bit of decent weather wouldn't go amiss!

**7. Hobbies?** Golf, playing guitar and writing/recording music

**8. Favourite Band?** Oceansize

**9. Which team do you support?** Queen Of The South!

**10. What is your claim to fame?** My band opened the Main Stage at the Wickerman Festival, playing with the Buzzcocks and Spiritualized.

## BIGGA welcomes the following new members

### Scotland

Benjamin Hartley, Central Section  
Shuai Giuo, Central Section  
Mark McDougall, Central Section  
Dongli Meng, Central Section  
Joseph Smith, Central Section  
Darren Walker, Central Section  
Aaron Jack, Central Section  
David Watson, East Section  
Mark McLaren, North Section  
Jack Craig, North Section  
Craig Barr, West Section  
Darren Cooper, West Section

### Northern Region

Ian Graham, North West Section  
Harry Ingram, North West Section  
Andrew Watkin, Cleveland Section  
James Smith, Sheffield Section  
Mark Morgan, Sheffield Section  
Simon Harley, Sheffield Section

### Midland Region

Matthew Skelding, East Midlands Section  
Alex Roberts, East Midlands Section  
Shane Sweeting, East Midlands Section  
Paul Owens, East Midlands Section  
John Hall, Midlands Section  
Mark Grant, Midlands Section  
Kevin Stout, Mid Anglia Section  
Steffan Davies, Mid Anglia Section  
Luke Vincent, Mid Anglia Section  
Lewis Turner, Mid Anglia Section

### South East Region

Adam Tamplin, Surrey Section  
Matthew Warren, Surrey Section  
Neil Edwards, Kent Section  
Jamie O'Connell, Kent Section  
Neil Johnson, Sussex Section  
David Roberts, Sussex Section  
Dale Funnell, Sussex Section  
Jim Rathbone, London Section  
Mitchel Throughgood, London Section  
Lewis Blois, East Anglia Section  
James Barrett, East Anglia Section

### Sth West/Sth Wales Region

Michael Llong, Kent Section  
Derek Barrowman, South West Section  
Andy Littleford, South West Section  
Deborah Phillips, South Coast Section  
Rhys Hugglestone, South Coast Section  
Simon Gisby, South Coast Section  
Thomas Determann, South Coast Section  
Peter Laley, South Coast Section  
Scott McAuley, Devon/Cornwall Section  
Daniel Young, South Wales Section

### Northern Ireland

David Forbes  
Republic of Ireland - Colaiste Stiofain  
Naofa College  
Christopher Breen  
Ronan Curtin  
David Desmond  
Gary Healy  
Sean Holland  
James Keane  
Paul Kelly  
Mark Kingston  
Stephen Lawlor  
James Madigan  
James Maloney  
Mark Mulcahy  
Simon O'Brien  
Ken O'Connell  
Colm O'Sullivan  
Johnny Ryan  
Liam Tobin  
John Tully  
Frank Twomey

### Overseas

Mark Shannon, Netherlands

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



### Essex

After weeks of relentless rain we held our first golf day of the season on Wednesday 16 May. The heavy down pours of Monday and Tuesday, quickly undid the three days of fine weather we experienced over the weekend prior to our Spring Trophy pairs event at Ilford Golf Club, but as Wednesday dawned, the fine weather returned and we were greeted with warm temperatures, bright sunshine and a light breeze. Ilford's Head Man, Sam Young had laid the course out in spectacular fashion, considering the atrocious weather we have all been experiencing of late, the odd puddle on fairways and one or two in bunkers was all that remained.

Hard work had been put in to bring the course to such a standard and Sam had done most of it himself. Sam manages this south Essex course with only two members of staff. This 18-hole course, set in the centre of Ilford, is compact and would fit twice into most average 18-hole courses.

28 players showed for the start and some good scoring resulted, the first three places being split by only three points.

1st Dominic Rogers & Tommy Carr, 44 Points.

2nd Neil Peachey & Roy Spong, 43 Points.

3rd Liam Springett & Dan Simmons, 42 Points.

Nearest the Pin 6th Hole, Sean Isabella.

Nearest the Pin 11th Hole, Dan Simmons.

Our thanks go to the following, Sam Young and his team for their hard work, Ilford Golf Club for the courtesy of the course and the fine meal and hospitality put on by the staff and to Wayne Wilson of CMW Equipment Ltd for the halfway house, plus all of our sponsors, without them the day would not have been possible.

Hopefully there is news elsewhere in the magazine about our football match against the Kent section on Monday 21 May at Upton Park, home of West Ham United; Toro UK sponsored the event.

There is news at last of our planned trip to The Hurlingham Club on Tuesday 12 June. Peter Craig, who spoke at last year's Regional Seminar and Essex member, is giving us a guided tour of this extremely prestigious venue. Details are on our website and if you are lucky there may still be places available, though we are limited to a maximum of 20 places. Call Ian Wood on 07652-470.861 if you are interested. CPD points should be available for those that attend.

Our next golf day is at Rochford Hundred Golf Club, National Qualifier, 18-hole Stableford on Thursday 16 August, £20 entry fee for members and £25 for guests.

If you wish to include anything in Greenkeeper International or on the Sections Website [www.essexbigga.co.uk](http://www.essexbigga.co.uk) please contact me on 07764-862.337 or at [essexbigga@talktalk.net](mailto:essexbigga@talktalk.net)

Arnold Phipps-Jones



### Kent

At this time of writing, the severe drought is at its height and I again find myself working my way through my wife's 'To-do' list within the confines of the house rather than face the torrential rain, which has been relentless for the last month. Most of the fair weather variety of golfers (including me) have restricted their playing to the confines of the covered driving ranges rather than risk the wettest springtime weather ever recorded. Anyway, I hope you are able to get out onto your courses and deal with the excess surface water via aeration and soil penetrants and at least give your respective clientele the option of venturing out.

Here in Kent we will just have held our early summer event at West Kent Golf Club when you read this, so a full report to come on that and a certain football match against our Essex counterparts on the hallowed turf of Upton Park in next month's column.

One last thing before I sign off from a rather brief report this month, we are collating

teams now for our Summer Pairs Knockout tournament. This was hugely popular and successful last year so please contact me or Kev asap if you have not already done so to be part of this great event. More details are on our website below.

Best of British



### South Coast

Hi all,

As I write this we have just had another 22mm of rain and there is water everywhere. Kev from Brokenhurst has sent me a photo of his second hole with only the top third of the flag visible in the flood! It is quite likely that when you read this we will be in a heat wave!

The committee last met on 18 April and we have at last finalised the hand over to Alex with a new bank account that will give us an online banking facility. Those that wish to can pay for their entries to competitions online, all of which helps the organisers to keep tabs on numbers without the problem of collecting money on the day.

As always the committee could do with some new faces, this will not involve any specific tasks to begin with, just to sit in at meetings and be involved with planning events. Anyone interested should contact one of the committee members listed on the fixture card.

The spring tournament, more appropriately known as the Colin (chalky) White Trophy, was held at Dunwood Manor GC on 26 April. We were the last society to play the course before it shuts its doors as a golf course – very sad!

Considering the torrential rain leading up to the day the course was in great condition, Jason and his team certainly did us proud, well done to all of you. A choice of truly excellent food finished the day off. A big thanks to everyone involved for making it a memorable day. Also, thanks as always to Avoncrop for sponsoring the day and to Colins Mum and sister for their ongoing support.

The competition was run as a medal for the first time in years and proved difficult for some!

Winners: Gross Mark Davis Canford 69, Luke Elgie Rushmore Park 82, Dave Harfield Hockley 84, Nett Kevin Tigg Quindel 69, Colin Pardey Sherbourne 74, Beverley Blair Southwick 77. Trade prize went to John Mathis of Rigby Taylor.

Our next event is the annual match against the secretaries at Rushmore Park on 7 June, then the Management Trophy at Liphook GC on the 20 June. The summer invitation is on the 11 July at Blackmore GC, please remember to pay in full before the day. Entries to Kevan Glass [glassy2003@hotmail.com](mailto:glassy2003@hotmail.com).

I must get back to a little job of priming the watering system ready for when it does stop raining! Until next month keep on Greenkeeping!

Tony Gadd



## South West

Rain, rain, go away... come back another day! What is this weather all about, in March they gave us a hose-pipe ban and told us to use less water and come May we have flooding throughout the whole country, interesting! I'm sure that come August it'll be in the high 20s and we'll be asking for more rain, but until then... STOP RAINING.

Thursday 19 April, the section visited Thornbury golf centre for its annual AMAM. 46 turned out to play golf and 50 for the meal, to me that equals a great day, and that it was. Thornbury made us feel very welcome and with everyone teeing off during the clear spell in the weather, only one group made it round before the heavens opened with the course flooded in no time at all, it was as though the river Severn wanted to take on a new direction (or that's how it looked from the clubhouse). So after all this, we had to make it a 9-hole competition.

The competition winners were: 3rd place, Jamie Acton and his partner Steve Acton with 23 points, 2nd place, Ian Reed and his partner Jason Norman with 24 points and this year's winners for the south west section AMAM were Roger Neale and his partner Robin Herbert with 25 points.

Roger, I have to mention this, because after all the hard work and effort you have put in over the last 12 months (maybe longer) it really has been worthwhile! A new man stands before us, good work mate, good work!

PLEASE NOTE, section matches... Vs secretaries, 30 May at Clevedon G.C. Vs Welsh section, Friday 10 August at Royal Porthcawl G.C. Vs south coast, 20 September at Salisbury G.C. Please contact Wayne Vincent, section captain, to show your interest in playing in any match.

Below is a few important words from Tim Needham at Hartpury College:

Hartpury will be running Sports Turf Apprenticeships for 16-18 year olds starting in September this year. These apprenticeships will be fully funded, employers only pay the wages, and include a Level 2 Diploma, First Aid course, Pa1 and Pa6 and Functional Skills. If you are looking to take on or train an apprentice then give us a call, we may also be able to help match you up with someone suitable. Funding is also still available for 19-24 year olds right up to a fully funded Level 2 or Level 3 depending on your previous qualifications. For an information pack about any of the Sports Turf courses call Tim Needham on 07788148352 or 01452702376.

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

We also have a Facebook page for the southwest section, one 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 finger tips.

See you all very soon,  
[adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk)

07732503855



## Devon and Cornwall

Hello all,

Quiet time of the year for us in terms of events, but we have got two summer events coming up; Wednesday 30 May, Boringdon

Park GC, Section Championships and Wednesday 4 July, Launceston GC, Devon V Cornwall Match. The Section Championships at Boringdon will be the qualifier for the National Tournament at Irvine Golf Club in October.

We have also arranged an evening Course walk and talk at Trevoze GC on Wednesday 11 July at 6.30pm, meet in the Club Car Park. Jon Wood, Course Manager, will be giving our members the opportunity to walk the course and ask questions during the preparation and prior to the McGregor Trophy, English Boys Under 16 Open Amateur Stroke Play Championship.

The Committee will be holding a meeting at the Boringdon Event if anyone is interested in getting more involved with the Section, or if any of you would like to stage an event then please contact me asap.

A big thank you to Farmura, Ransomes Jacobsen and Huxley Southwest for their help towards sponsoring the Minibuses and fuel for the member's trip to Harrogate this year. The Section really appreciates this level of support to encourage and enable our members to make the trip. It also gave the opportunity for some of our Duchy Students to experience Harrogate too.

If any of the members have any news or stories they would like to share with the rest of the membership then please do not hesitate to contact me on the number and email below.

George Pitts  
07929 754401  
[gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com](mailto:gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com)



## South Wales

"I feel it in my fingers I feel it in my toes" the opening line to a famous WET, WET, WET song and my god have we been wet. Over 35mm in 12 hours in West Wales and over 5 inches in the month of April for the boys in East Wales. Forecasters have stated that it was the wettest April since records began! Who knows what we're going to get next?

Our Regional Spring Seminar,

in association with Farmura Environmental, was at The Royal Porthcawl GC. Nearly 50 delegates undertook educational seminars from John Philip MBE Links Superintendent Carnoustie Links, Richard Windows STRI, Johnathan Harmer MD Farmura Environmental, and Demie Moore of Aquatrols. Topics included the history of the golf ball and how course management has had to change to combat this. Water management the history of soil surfactants and where they are now with new technologies. We also had an update from Richard Windows on the STRI programmes and their data analysis.

A huge thank you must go out to Farmura Environmental for again supporting the event, Royal Porthcawl GC for hosting the event, all of the speakers for giving their time to come down and talk with us and lastly the greenkeepers, without your attendance to these events it is very difficult to organise and select speakers to come to talk to us so please keep coming back for years to come. Thanks all.

By The time most of us get to read this another Wales Open would have gone and passed I would just like to wish Jim and all his staff a very successful Handa Wales Open and maybe even a Welsh winner? All the best guys.

Our 2012 Fixtures: Spring Meeting, May 16, Greenmeadow GC, 1.30pm Tee Off. Rigby Taylor Qualifier, June 14, St Mellons GC, 1.00pm Tee Off. Tacit Golf Management, June 28, Newport GC, 10.00am Tee Off. Summer Meeting, July 11, Creigau GC, 1.00pm Tee Off. North v South, July 27, Aberdovey GC, 2.00pm Tee Off. Rigby Taylor Final, Sept 14, Glynneath GC 9.30am Tee Off.

Autumn AGM&Meeting, Oct 11, Clyne GC, 11.00am AGM starts. Winter Meeting, Dec 14, Southerndown GC, 10.00am Tee Off.

That's it from me; praying for some sunshine, who knows??

Regards,

Peter Holmstrom

