

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 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

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 or contact the committee/Matt Nutter: bbosecretray@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

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

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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.