

and has always encouraged the progress of committed and driven greenkeepers within the industry. I sincerely wish him well with the challenge that lies ahead at Wentworth.

So, all cylinders have been reground, all filters have been changed, all winter servicing is complete and greenkeepers across the country are preparing themselves for the smell of freshly cut grass in their nostrils. British summertime begins on the 25th of this month and then the season should really start to kick off. The mild winter for the vast majority of us has made this winter seem very short, and with the exception of the cold snap at the start of February there has been a steady level of growth enabling some recovery from the winter wear and tear. Fingers crossed we get a good flush of spring growth, something that we severely lacked in 2011, which would set everyone up nicely for the coming season.

This of course is our greenkeeping utopia, which we have no control over, but we live in hope.

Happy Greenkeeping!
Greg Skinner
07970 095264



Midland

As I sit here in February with snow and freezing conditions all around, I am heartened by the fact that I am writing March's notes, and such can only mean that spring should be well on its way. Fingers crossed ay! As we are on the subject of spring, our thoughts are concerned with the repair and reinstatement of damaged areas from the preceding winter's play. Luckily this month's calendar sponsor is Matt Gresty, Amenity Grass Seed Specialist. Tel: 07767 278335 or 0121 458 6646. Email: matthew.gresty@limagrains.co.uk. Please consider Matt for all your seed requirements, our thanks to him for his continued support of our Section.

Spring of course also brings the beginning of our new golfing

season for 2012, and I find the Tournament Programme Card invaluable in sourcing information regarding upcoming golfing dates and educational events, our thanks to Headland Amenity for sponsoring such (www.headlandamenity.com <<http://www.headlandamenity.com>>). Our first event is to be held at The Chase Golf Club on May 23 with tee times from 12:30. Please get your entries into Gary A.S.A.P. The format is to remain as Stableford scoring system, one I only recently learnt the origin of while sitting in the dentist's waiting room reading anything to keep my mind of the inevitable scaffold pole injection within my head. Such was devised by Dr. Frank Stableford and first used for official competition in 1932.

Also at the Spring event the long running and very successful Everris Doubles competition (re-named from Scotts) will be drawn. The date and fixture for the final is yet to be arranged, but I'm sure such will be in keeping with the prestige prior years of excellence has afforded us. For further information and entry forms please visit our web site: www.biggamidlandsection.co.uk <<http://www.biggamidlandsection.co.uk>>.

Now I come to some lovely news to finish, after too many a year, I recently received a text from my old mate Steve Wenlock, from North Worcester GC, informing me that he and his lovely wife Emma now have three children; Josh, Kieran, and new daughter, Millie. Congratulations to you both, I look forward to seeing you in the spring, the little ones will love the butterfly farm, or will we be fly fishing? I doubt it.

Sean McDade



B, B & O

Spring cannot be far around the corner, although as I write this we are literally snowed under! It seems winter has returned with a vengeance. I'm sure many of you will be thankful that the golf courses have been given some brief rest bite

following a busy period since the start of the year, despite pressure from members and owners to open. With this in mind it won't be long until attention turns to formulating and preparing spring maintenance programmes as we gear up for the season ahead. Hopefully courses have suffered little disease in comparison to previous winters and spring will get off to a flying start.

By all accounts Harrogate Week was a success with good numbers reported. Hopefully many of you got to experience the week and all that was on offer.

Congratulations must go to Andrew Thrift, who has left Newbury and Crookham after four years, to take over as Course Manager at Donnington Valley, where he replaces Alistair Higgs who has taken on the reins at Windlesham Golf Club. Michael Cox, formerly of Donnington Valley, has stepped in to become Deputy at Newbury working alongside Alec MacIndoe. We wish all of you the best as you take on your news roles and challenges.

Dates and venues for this year's Section events will be confirmed next month. The format will follow last year's schedule: Spring and Summer meetings, plus the Turkey Trot. Last year's golf days were well attended and we hope to see many of you again this year. Invites and information will be emailed out rather than posted in an attempt to curb costs. If you wish to receive news and or any information regarding golf days and all section events then please send your email address and details to Matt Nutter: bbosecretray@gmail.com. The Section website has been updated and now features the latest jobs from around the area.

The BIGGA Midland Regional Conference is being held at Frilford Heath Golf Club on March 29. The theme of the day is 'Construction and Weather its Ecologically Sound'. An impressive line up of speakers include: BIGGA CEO, Jim Croxton; Mark Hunt, of Headland; Les Howkins, Course Manager at the Richmond GC; Dr Keith Duff, and Cameron McMillan, from Queenwood. Hopefully many of you will be able to make it along for what promises to be

Assistant Profile

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

Name: Barry McCulloch
Age: 31
Club: Whitecraigs Golf Club
Position: Assistant Greenkeeper
Nickname: Beebes



- 1. How long have you been greenkeeping?** 14 years
- 2. What was it about the career that attracted you?** Different tasks everyday.
- 3. If you weren't a greenkeeper what do you think you'd be?** Mechanic or a Joiner.
- 4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?** Hand cutting greens, because of the instant result.
- 5. Which task do you least enjoy doing and why?** Diving fairways in the rain, it feels like its never ending.
- 6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot?** For greenkeepers to receive the recognition they deserve.
- 7. Hobbies?** Golf, Football, Socialising.
- 8. Favourite Band?** Coldplay.
- 9. Which team do you support (football or otherwise)?** Glasgow Celtic.
- 10. What is your claim to fame?** My wedding pictures were in a magazine

Are you an Assistant Greenkeeper?

To appear in this column email scott@bigga.co.uk or ring 01347 833800 Option 510