



Essex

As reported last month in this magazine we have lost a very dear friend in John Farrell (Baileys of Norfolk), The Essex Section wishes to express its sympathy to the family and work colleagues of John. He will be sadly missed. John lectured at very short notice at one of our seminars held at Stock Brook a couple of years ago, and through Baileys of Norfolk supported the section as he did others in our Region.

Entries for our first Golf Day at Ilford Golf Club (11.00am start, and dress code is smart/casual) Wednesday 16 May, are now due, if you have not already done so. Entry forms to: Antony Kirwan at Play Golf Colchester, Bakers Lane, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4AU or by email to antz16@btinternet.com.

If you wish to enter the Team Knockout this year, entries are FREE. All you have to do is get your entry to Antony by 16 May when the draw will be made on the evening at Ilford.

We are again being treated to a stroll around West Ham's ground for a game of football. The match this year is against the Kent Section. Venue is again at West Ham United's Upton Park ground on Monday 21 May, arrive at 1.00pm for a 2.00pm kick off. Satellite Navigation: Set address and post code to Green Street, Upton Park, London E13 9AZ.

Last year we played the Sussex Section and what a fantastically close game we had. It was a great afternoon for both players and spectators, thanks to the support of sponsor Toro and West Ham.

This year we would like to see more of you there to support the teams, so if you're not playing come along and support the boys.

There is news soon to come of a trip to have a look around the Hurlingham Club with Peter Craig. This will most probably be mid-year. Later we will have a couple

of one-day seminars with Howard Swan. The first will be sometime in the autumn. If demand is high we will then run a second seminar in the early part of 2013.

We have three new sponsors this year; Toro, Farmura and Billericay Farm Services joining our section. Along with continuing sponsorship from: Amenity Technology, Bailey's of Norfolk, Banks Amenity Products, Blade Amenity, CMW Equipment Limited, Collier Turf Care, Ernest Doe & Son, Everris, GM Amenity, Golf Mats UK, Headland Amenity Products, Irrigation and Water, Limagrain, Otley College, Paynes Turf, Philip Liverton, P. Tuckwell Ltd, Premier Plan, Prime Irrigation, RainBird, Rigby Taylor, Sea Nymph (Chaingreen Ltd), Tey Farm Services, Toro, Writtle College.

The Essex Section would like to thank all of the above for their help with running our golf days and the education seminars that we run for the benefit of the section members.

Just a reminder to all those members collecting CPD credits, you need to have a minimum of 10 credits by the end of June 2012 to qualify.

If you have anything for inclusion in Greenkeeper International or on the Sections Website www.essexbigga.co.uk please contact me on 07764-862.337 or at essexbigga@talktalk.net

Arnold Phipps-Jones



Kent

There's a couple of events to tell you about this month. Firstly the South East Region's Annual event at Walton Heath superbly organised, as ever, by Clive Osgood.

A glorious course beautifully presented in the early spring by Alan Strachan and his crew awaited over a hundred of the Region's finest greenkeeping talents. The work Walton Heath has undertaken to dramatically regenerate the heather is nothing short of incredible.

And, despite my own personal best efforts to thin it out, will be a lasting legacy to the club and its exceptional management of today's course and completely restoring its historical values.

It was great to see very many old friends on the day and enjoy their company well into the evening. Well done to my playing partners, Neil Peachey, Roy Spong and 'The Colonel' for such an enjoyable game and also to Gareth Roberts on winning the Ray Day Memorial Trophy. Notable victories from our Section on the day were from Darren Child who shot 39 points to win the 0-9 handicap category and to Kev Morris who picked ticket number 328 to win the raffle. A worthy mention for the comedian too. I was laughing all week.

Our Kent Section has just played our first event of the year at one of the best courses in our region, North Foreland Golf Club. Unfortunately, I had to sit out my first event for seven years so the following report was prepared for me by Kev Morris:

North Foreland Golf Club, what can you say? A credit to everyone involved, from Tony Adams, the General Manager, Dan McGrath, the wonderful Course Manager, all the dedicated Greenstaff to hunger busting catering staff.

With the sun beating down on the assembled field, with Vic Maynard, of Ernest Doe, and his trusty "beverage wagon" on hand to quench even the fiercest thirst, the day began.

The Course was presented in pristine condition and was appreciated by all. The greens were great, tricky to read, but putted perfectly, unfortunately I didn't!

The weather remained glorious all afternoon and was even being enjoyed by the 2 wheeled dog!

The days' triumphant winner, on count back, was the emigrating, well Cornwall bound, Steve Gunner with 36pts, who pipped Forelands own Daz Burton, with Melvyn Tassell in 3rd place with a very creditable 35pts. Longest Drive went to Wayne Syres and nearest the pin to Russ Bain.

We would like to extend a

Assistant Profile

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

Name: Seb Cavilla

Age: 27

Club: The Manor House Golf Club, Castle Combe



Nickname: Sebbyl!

How long have you been greenkeeping?

Five years, plus a previous two as a groundsman

What attracted you to the career?

The attention to detail required on the course

If you weren't a greenkeeper what would you be?

Probably a chef!

What task do you most enjoy and why?

Double cutting fairways - it has one of the biggest visual impacts on the course, and done well, looks fantastic.

What task do you least enjoy and why?

Pressure washing!
Spent nearly a month doing the golf club and hotel patios over the winter

What one thing, other than a payrise, would improve a greenkeeper's lot?

More respect and recognition from golfers for the job we do

Hobbies?

Trips to Anfield, and cooking

Favourite band?

Anything from Radiohead to Braintax

Football team?

LIVERPOOL!

Claim to fame?

I have a football signed by Pele