

## Section Notes

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

All the latest news from your Section

# Around The Green



## Scottish Region



### Central

The Section held its autumn outing on one of the better days of the summer on 19 September at Piperdam Golf and Leisure Club.

Over 45 players took part with the numbers boosted considerably by the large contingent of students from Elmwood who came along for the day.

It was great to see so many youngsters attend what would have been their first event and mix with the regulars.

The course was presented beautifully by Shaun Anderson and his staff although the pace of the greens caught many of the players out and our thanks go to them and everyone else at Piperdam for making us so welcome.

The main prize winners on the day were:

Scratch, Allan Patterson, St Andrews, best overall net and also winner of the spring and autumn handicap combined, Shaun Anderson, Piperdam.

Best nett in section 1 handicap, David Gray, Ladybank and in section 2, Gary Douglas, Piperdam.

Allan Wright from Fairways GM won the trade prize and Martin Kerr was the best student.

The full list of prize winners is available on the website [www.biggacentralsection.org.uk](http://www.biggacentralsection.org.uk) <<http://www.biggacentralsection.org.uk>> along with a brief précis of the Section AGM held on 30 October.

The final of the 2012 pairs tournament was played at Kingsbarns Golf Links on 15 October before this article was written.

The finalists are Paul Armour and Kevin Webster from Leven against Kenny Mitchell and

Scott MacKintosh from St Andrews.

Thanks go to Kingsbarns for allowing us the use of the course for the final.

The irrigation course we are running at Elmwood on 12 December has only 4 places left at the time of going to print and we are also trying to arrange another seminar for an evening around the end of November.

Members will be notified by email in the normal fashion.

If you haven't been getting regular emails about educational or golfing events, then please check we have your correct email address.

Regards,  
Gordon



### East

We had our Autumn Golf Tournament at Murrayfield Golf Course on Wednesday 19th September.

The weather was dry and sunny and should have reflected some low scoring in our stableford competition, results as follows:

Scratch winner - Stuart Ferguson Dundas Park GC 76 scratch

1st class winner - Phil Butler Murrayfield GC 35 points

Runner up - Sean Cunningham Mortonhall GC 34 points

2nd class - winner Alan Campbell Carrickknowe GC 35 Points

Runner up - Ryan McCulloch, Goswick GC 26 points

Trade winner - Stewart Clayton, Greensman Ltd 31 points

Veterans winner - Alastair Holmes, Seahouses GC 29 points

Apprentice prize - Andrew Terras, Goswick GC 29 points

Bill Lyon (course manager) and his staff had the course

in perfect condition, with Phil Butler (Murrayfield) coming through and winning a trophy, local knowledge eh Phil'.

We would like to thank Stuart Taylor Scottish Chairman, for attending and also David Greenshields for his barrenburg presentation after dinner.

Next year's venues and dates are already set, thanks to our hard working and forward thinking, secretary Stuart Ferguson.

Events 2013:

Spring - Seahouses GC - 23 April

Willie Woods - Mortonhall GC - 21 August

Autumn - Haddington GC - 17 September

On the 6 November this year, we have a presentation by Tour Spec at Turnhouse GC from 9.30am to 1.30pm, please contact Scott Corrigan on 07877098237 or email [scottcorrigan4aol.com](mailto:scottcorrigan4aol.com) for further information.

I believe two CPD points will be awarded for attendance.

The AGM this year is on 31 October at Gifford GC sponsored by Aitkens, good luck to you all who play for Jimmy Neilson's claret jug in the afternoon.

This will be my last entry for the East Section as I step down from chairmanship and let vice chairman Scott Corrigan take over.

I would like to thank you all for your support over the last four years.

Your attendance at all events helped to keep the East Section strong.

Thanks to all the committee members with whom I have worked and a special thanks to Stuart Ferguson who has been on the end of the phone for constant help.

Good luck and best wishes to you all in 2013 and beyond.

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



### West

By the time you get this copy of the magazine the AGM will have been done and dusted the venue being Higgs Castle Golf Club, I will report next month on what happened and any feedback for the members' attention.

The outing held at Fereneze Golf Club on 18 September experienced beautiful sunshine and a well groomed, dry golf course which was a joy to play.

Unfortunately I was unable to find form that day, although I struck the ball well some misinformation from the captain Peter Boyd scuppered my efforts.

The course in excellent condition and thanks must go to Sandy Bulloch and his staff for their efforts although none competed we appreciate all their hard work.

The Fereneze committee have to be commended for allowing our presence, this is very much appreciated, and thanks to both the catering and bar staff for attending to our requirements.

The prize winners on the day were

Scratch Alistair Reid gross 74  
1st class winner Gerry Bruen; Runner up Craig Littlejohn; Third Derek Duthie; 2nd class winner Sandy Brawley; Runner up Brian Logue; Third Kenny Hunter; 3rd class winner David Reid; Runner up Michael Maxton; Visitors prize and nearest the pin at hole 7; Peter Boyd; Nearest the pin at hole 14; Gerry Bruen

On the day 28 people attended and enjoyed the event which is a wee bit disappointing but maybe the next time we might get a better turn out, but I do understand as this was one of the best days for a while.

The normal annual dinner

last year was not really a dinner but a get together with like-minded individuals and the occasion proved to be very successful with 26 turning up for a few drinks and chat.

This year a similar format is planned and the intended date is Friday 30 November for those who are interested meeting once again at all bar one.

Recently I played in the British Championship at Irvine Bogside which was a joy to walk round experiencing lovely dry surfaces and beautiful firm quick greens, sadly my golf did not live up to the course.

Gordon Sangster from Cathkin Braes did pick up a prize and the Scottish region won the team prize, so congratulations to the team members.

Two brilliant golf days were experienced by all and on the evening of Monday a lovely meal was laid on by the club steward.

Well done to the Irvine Bogside council and committee for allowing us the privilege of playing your wonderful course and thanks to all at head office for their efforts in running an excellent competition.

May I pass on my best wishes to Tony Smith, my playing partner the first day, and wish him well as new Chairman.

The annual match against the club masters has still to be arranged but if anybody is interested in playing, then please call me, please remember to get in touch with any information of births, deaths, marriages etc.

Tel 0141-942-5554, or 07790823914, or e-mail [stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com](mailto:stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com)

## Northern Region



### North East

On October 10 at Tyneside Golf Club we played our Autumn Competition.

After an early bout of frost the sun was out and what a beautiful day it was too a rare sight this year - compliments to Head Greenkeeper David Simpson and his staff for the great condition of the course a credit to them all and thanks to the club.

The venue must have been a good choice as sixteen people turned up now that's a lot better than recent years my thanks to the greenkeepers who made their debut and look forward

to seeing them in the future events, and thanks also to Sandra Raper the new Regional Administrator for doing the cards and keeping the members informed of forthcoming events.

Finally to the sponsors on the day Rigby Taylor, Rickerbys, T.S.L.

Shorts of Whitburn and Greenlay thank you all once again.

### Leading Scores

Best Nett M.Gunn Tyneside GC 65; Best Gross S.Harrison 74 Close House; Greenlay Cup nett J.Moutrie 70 Tyneside; Ransome/Jacobsen Shield J.Grey 68 Middlesbrough Municipal; J.S.Richardson 68; SRPope 72; P.Walton 73; A.Reay 75.

Other news which was actually phoned in is Grant Burton, formerly of Gosforth GC, has landed the job of assistant greenkeeper at The Northumberland GC.

Apparently there were 40 applications for this position, the new man at Gosforth is Paul Wright formerly of T.S.L.

who also used to work at the City of Newcastle GC.

Sadly I received some really bad news that another Head Greenkeeper has been made redundant due to the economic climate - Peter Anderson of Newcastle Utd GC a long serving the member of the section.

I'm sure we all wish him the best of luck and hope he gets fixed up in the near future.

And lastly a piece of news from the Isle of Man where Clive Patterson formerly of Arcot Hall works.

As you know we all have a bit of news about all the rain this year well his secretary has passed it on to me that in June, July and August they had 18ins of rain hence the rough has been thick and lush.

Reckon that's the same all over this year not many golfers played to their handicaps.



### North West

Again, a very quiet month.

I am writing these a month before publishing and I hope the weather has improved by now.

I know we all have astory to tell about the weather.

I personally have never seen so much water fall on the course for such a long period.

I do hope you have all managed as best you can and you have my sympathy in what is by far the worst prolonged bout of bad weather that I have ever seen.

Some of you will remember Steve Dunn previously of Dunham forest and Mere Golf and Country Club.

He moved to New Zealand and into a Greenkeeping job.

He has now taken a new job supplying golf course machinery and I believe he is loving it, good luck to him.

Chris Sheehan



### Northern

The awful weather again put fowl to our autumn golf day out at Halifax Golf Club which makes me think we are jinxed because it's now three times we have had to cancel it! We now will have the AGM at our Xmas golf day at Bracken Gyll on 12 December, so come on guys good turn out please.

It's a 4 man team event and every team will get a prize! So you can play golf, have a great

meal, loads of laughs, maybe win on the raffle too all for £20... bargain.

I've not got too much for you this month I'm afraid, but I'm working on a few things for next year and will hopefully have next year's fixtures and these events confirmed by the AGM.

Thanks

Andy Slingsby

07506407867

[andy.slingsby98@googlemail.com](mailto:andy.slingsby98@googlemail.com)



### North Wales

The leaves are well and truly falling now and with Halloween behind us and bonfire night pretty well put to bed, the next big thing is our upcoming Christmas tournament on 21 November at Oswestry golf club, not 7 December as posted on our fixture sheet.

I must apologise as in last month's column I neglected to mention the outstanding achievement of Stu Yarwood, Eddie Ainsworth, Tim Johnson and Gordon Irvine who walked three mowers from Liverpool to

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# Around The Green

Hull to raise much needed funds for help for heroes approximately £2000 raised well done lads! The national tournament took place at Irvine golf club and by all accounts the course and competitive spirit where both at exceptionally high standards but even though our entrants, Andy Peel of Bull Bay and Phil Watson of Wallesey put a good show they didn't finish quite in the top tier.

I have to mention the sad news that Chirk golf club has folded and our thoughts go out to Adie, Haydn, George, Richard and also to Roy who although retired still used to go in to help out, we wish them the best for the future.

We are once again making an appeal for members e-mail addresses and education requirements if you could all please forward your details to [bnwales@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bnwales@hotmail.co.uk) please.

There will be a half-day seminar very possibly on 4 December, speakers and venue yet to be finalised so watch out for information on our Facebook events page.

The annual trip to Harrogate is pencilled in for Wednesday 23 January but this year we will only run the trip if we have enough seats booked to make the trip viable, so if you think you would like to go please contact myself or Jez to book your seat and with it being free to members and only £10 to non-members it's a steal! I think that just about covers everything so all the best until next month.

Pete Maybury e-mail [petemayb66@aol.com](mailto:petemayb66@aol.com) phone and text 07756001187 Facebook North Wales B.I.G.G.A

## Midland Region



### East Midlands

I'm pretty certain that this is a first.

Picture this...I am sitting on my sun lounger, in my budgie smugglers, in the beautiful Turkish town of Kalkan in 37 degrees writing November's Around The Green notes! Those of you that know me will be frantically trying to get that image out of your head, those of you that don't are best advised to

follow those that do!

September and October have been very busy months for the East Midlands Section.

Our AGM tournament was held at Glen Gorse Golf Club on 20th September.

The day produced a number of surprises including Dave Smith (retired) turning up in a pair of trousers straight from the wardrobe of television's Flog It.

However, his highly distracting attire wasn't enough to put off the eventual winners, Nick 'Three-Birdies-in-a-Row' Miles and Mick Marvel with 40 points on count back from Simon Banks and Andy Marsh in second and Nigel Colley and Andy Lane in third place.

Nearest the Pin went to Nigel Colley and the Longest Drive prize was won by Nick 'I've-Just-Hit-It-A-Country-Mile' Miles.

These two prizes were generously sponsored as ever by Tacit, so thanks to Mark Chamberlain for organising that.

The committee would also like to thank Banks Amenity, Countrywide and Farmura for their generous sponsorship of the day in general, enabling us to provide a very appealing prize table.

Thanks also to Frank Kempster and his team for producing a course in tremendous condition along with an extremely hospitable clubhouse for a lovely meal.

Our Regional Administrator Sandra Raper was also there to photograph the event, assist with the AGM and show of her raffle coordination skills.

Overall the day was a great success, although again low numbers attended, it was reassuring for me to play a round of golf with Carl Chamberlain without him rendering any unassuming golfers unconscious with his wayward shots!

The AGM that followed produced a lively session with lots to discuss under AOB.

All members of the committee were voted back on and Andy Marsh from Charnwood Forest GC was voted on for the forthcoming year.

Andy also represented the East Midlands Section along with Garry Thurman at the National Championships on 8th/9th October.

On 11th October the East Midlands Section fielded a team of three, Adi Porter 36 points, Nigel Colley 36 points and Asa

English 33 points in the Whitemoss Inter-Section Golf Day at Greetham Valley GC.

This set of tremendous scores meant that the East Midland Section came second by one point to the Midland Section.

However, Adi Porter, with several years of local knowledge won the Longest Drive and Nigel 'This is becoming a habit' Colley won the Nearest the Pin prize.

Adi and his team are to be congratulated on their presentation of the course, especially the outstanding greens.

Sandra did a sterling job in organising the day along with Whitemoss, the day's sponsors and Greetham Valley GC for their hospitality and quality of food.

As I said earlier it has been a busy month or so for the section and all this typing whilst tanning my cheeks is making me tired and thirsty.

It must be nearly beer o'clock surely....

As Leslie Phillips used to say, probably whilst wearing Dave Smith's cast off trousers

Ding....

Dong....

Greg Skinner

07970 095264



### Midland

Well, as I sit here in Stratford Towers pondering what on earth to spew out for this month's notes, I am trying to find inspiration from "The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam".

His understanding of the human condition can only be found with the knowledge of experience and the writings of those before.

With this in mind it is quite fitting that our Christmas Tournament is to be held at Sutton Coldfield Golf Club on 3rd December, such is being held in respect to our long serving member Alan Kite, who is retiring.

It will be his last stand.

I hope that you will support this event and give Alan the send off he has earned.

I shall of course report in a little more detail next month.

Get your entries in to Rhys Thomas before the day.

You can contact Rhys on

07774 164173 or download an entry form from the website [www.biggamidlandsection.co.uk](http://www.biggamidlandsection.co.uk).

This month's calendar sponsor is Turfmech Machinery Ltd.

Tel: 01889 271 503 or : [www.turfmech.co.uk](http://www.turfmech.co.uk).

Our thanks to Turfmech for their continued support.

Please consider them for your machinery requirements.

The Region Inter-section team event was held on Thursday 11th October at Greetham Valley Golf Club.

The Midland Section won the event with a team score of 106 points.

Well done to Steve Thompson, Clint Woodall and Andy Brougham for bringing the trophy home for the first time since 2007.

Many thanks to Sandra Raper our Regional Administrator for organising the day and Andy Law and Whitemoss Eco for sponsoring the event.



### Berks, Bucks & Oxon

This year's BB&O Turkey Trot is returning once more to the Oxfordshire.

The event which is arguably the section's flagship golf day will take place on 12 December 2012 and will follow the same team format as previous years.

The Turkey Trot has been well attended over the last two years with around 100 people turning up on the day, hopefully as many of you as possible will be able to attend especially those who have not played before.

For further details and entry forms please visit the section website.

Sandra Raper our Midlands Regional Administrator has been busy visiting golf courses and members in the BB&O section putting names to faces.

Sandra will be working to update the HQ email system over the winter.

In order to keep up to date with what's happening in the section and BIGGA, plus news and events please email your details to [sandra@bigga.co.uk](mailto:sandra@bigga.co.uk)

The Rigby Taylor pairs competition has reached the semi final stage which will be contested between Castle Royal GC and

Sonning GC while Harewood Downs GC v Deanwood Park GC make up the second semi final, good luck to all four teams!

In other news from around the section the Midlands Section Conference is being held at Forest Hill Golf Club in Leicester on 6th November.

Malcolm Peake is still demonstrating the 'Greenstester' if anyone wants to arrange a demonstration he can be contacted on [peakes@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:peakes@hotmail.co.uk) or mobile tel: 07801 239790.

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

Alternatively keep up to date with what is happening in the BB&O section by following us on Twitter, Facebook and the web site: [www.bbogreenkeepers.co.uk](http://www.bbogreenkeepers.co.uk)



## Mid Anglia

We are well and truly heading into autumn/winter as the temperatures have really dropped off and hopefully most of the leaves will be doing the same as it's always a frustrating time of the year clearing up the continual deluge day in day out.

We will have played our Autumn Golf Day at Verulam GC by the time you get this so let's hope we get lucky with the weather.

Our final Golf event of the season is the Texas Scramble hosted on 4 December at Dunstable Downs GC so please get your entries for your team of four in nice and early as this is always a very popular event and a fantastic golfing test.

Prices are £30 for Members and £40 for any non members.

Lastly we have some good news from one of our boys flying the flag for our section.

Oly Browning (23) of Stocks Golf Club has just won the biggest competition of his life, the Bigga National Championship at Irvine Golf Club on the Ayrshire coast.

He won with a score of 146 over 36 holes medal play.

Playing off of scratch he beat 66 other entrants to the title.

Over the past 4 years he has won the club champs at both Stocks and Ivinghoe golf clubs respectively.

Oly hopes that one day he will make the grade and play on the European tour.

Just a word of warning, don't play this guy for money! Well done Oly! Any chance of giving me and all the other choppers out there a few lessons? That's all from me and hope to hear from some of you soon.

Darren - [d.mugford@rigby-taylor.com](mailto:d.mugford@rigby-taylor.com)

## SOUTH EAST REGION



### Surrey

Monday October 15.

Just had a text from Chris Gosden, course manager at St Georges Hill GC, giving the sad news that his mechanic Steve Bush died suddenly yesterday.

Steve, a keen lawnmower racer and winner of many events over the past years, leaves his wife Sharon and daughters Rachel and Hanna.

I have asked Chris to pass on our condolences to Steve's family.

Richmond GC was the excellent venue on October 11 for the annual contest for the Cresta cup.

Thanks to Les Howkins and Richmond GC for allowing us courtesy and also the chef for providing everyone, except me, with an exceptional curry.

I had a delicious roast beef dinner because I, unlike the rest of the world, hate curry.

Tony Bremer, that much loved bandit from Dorking GC, walked away with the cup, easily beating Ron Christie, the runner up and Gary Ogilvie.

Gary, an infiltrator from Sussex section, remained dry and missed taking a dip in the pond even though I tried to divert his attention by hitting a bad tee shot in his direction.

Fortunately for Gary, my ball went into the pond and unlike at Gatton Manor GC, he did not.

Jason Hunt won nearest the pin.

Should any member like to join the Surrey committee please contact Les or Ron before the AGM, which takes place at Dorking GC, after the Turkey Trot.

My last scribbling for this excellent magazine will be in the December edition as I am retiring from the committee after some 15 years.

I know you will all miss my adventures on the Isle of Wight but I am just a phone call away should any of you feel the need for an update.

I must apologise for the mistake in last month's edition as the match greenkeepers v the reps took place at Hankley Common GC and not at Richmond GC as stated.

I was not chosen to play for the reps and so the result, a draw, could have been averted had I been involved.

I will not comment on the possible outcome had I played, except to say that it is probable that I would have used all my golfing expertise to ensure a greenkeeper's victory.

It is apparent that either the baby carrying stork is dead or that all members are of a certain orange variety that has no pips.

Father of the month, a usual feature of my monthly jottings, has not appeared for some time and needs to be used on a regular basis.

So come on lads, do your best and provide the new writer of around the green with news of your efforts to repopulate the world.

Brian Willmott



### Kent

What a day we had at Boughton Golf Club.

Our hardcore group of thirty odd of Kent's finest greenkeepers certainly picked the best day of that particular week to play at Gary Debenham's superbly presented course, especially when you factor in the recent weather.

Indeed, in glorious sunshine, many of us were able to make hay while the sun shone whilst

## Assistant Profile

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

**Name:** Ashley Marshall  
**Age:** 35  
**Club:** Matfen Hall  
**Position:** Assistant Greenkeeper  
**Nickname:** Dish dash



**1. How long have you been greenkeeping?** 19 years

**2. What was it about the career that attracted you?** Working outdoors and job satisfaction

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

**4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?** Drainage work, correcting something that needs fixing

**5. Which task do you least enjoy doing and why?** Pumping water from flooded areas

**6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot?** Managers understanding what is needed to run a golf course

**7. Hobbies?** Football, going on holiday to the Middle East

**8. Favourite Band?** Black Eyed Peas

**9. Which team do you support?)?** Newcastle - the Toon Army!

**10. What is your claim to fame?**

Spending four days with Kenny McDowell in Dubai driving him round the golf course after he fell and hurt his knee, also met GMac who is a top man

## BIGGA welcomes the following new members

### Scotland

Kenneth Niven, Central Section  
David Bruce, Central Section

### Northern Region

Neil Proudlock, North East Section  
Joseph Henderson, North East Section  
William Brown, North East Section

### Midland Region

Ritchie Nicholls, Midland Section  
Anthony Whitehall, Midland Section

### South East Region

Glenn Stone, London Section  
Su Hodgson, Surrey Section  
Jordan Pannone, Surrey Section

### South West/South Wales Region

David Gray, South Coast Section  
Kevin Arnold, South Coast Section  
Alun Hughes, South Wales Section  
David Smith, South Coast Section  
Michael Littlecott, South Coast Section

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

one member of my playing group just enjoyed a good walk through it!

Boughton was certainly a challenge to anyone not aware of the layout.

There seemed to be a lot of dog-legs and blind shots to tucked away greens.

Then again, maybe it was just the strange lines I was approaching them from! A quality bit of beef (with optional seconds!) and a very hospitable bar ensured the day was finished off perfectly in the company of our friends and peers.

Results as follows: 1st Russ Bain 37 points; 2nd Wayne Syers 37 points (countback); 3rd Dave Bass 36 points and winner of an almighty longest drive down 18th; Nearest Pin-Pete Leeves.

Our section would like to wish the very best of luck to one of our regular attendees, Michael Roberts of Knole Park, who is representing Great Britain in the World Deaf Golf Championships.

Michael is a fantastic player and an all round good guy who I'm sure will do this great nation proud.

The section were very proud to give you some sponsorship to take to Japan where he will compete for the World Championships.

We would like to congratulate Aaron Launchbury of North Foreland Golf Club who recently won the regional final of Toro Student of the Year.

He has just returned from the finals where, unfortunately, he was pipped at the post but has done fantastically well considering he has only been in the industry for sixteen months.

On behalf of Dan McGrath, North Foreland Golf Club and everyone in your section a massive well done to you Aaron. You are a credit to us all. Unfortunately, another one of Dan McGrath's staff at North Foreland has been less fortunate.

Darren Burton, star of the Trilby Tour, has managed to break his thumb whilst playing football. This has rendered him out of action for some time while he gets some internal bionics attached.

Maybe he'll learn that goal-keeping is a job for the professionals!

In a couple of weeks, 29 November to be exact, we shall

be bringing the curtain down on another great year by having our Turkey Trot and AGM at the fantastic venue of Redlibbits Golf Club.

Kev has really raised the bar this year when it comes to presenting a course and I'm sure you will all enjoy this great event.

We shall also have our AGM following the golf so if you have any issues you would like to raise then please let us know.

Also, if you would like to stand for election to our committee then just stick your hand up! You should have got an invitation e-mail by now to this event.

Please let us know if you will be coming so we can make the necessary arrangements.

Finally, we would like to wish our Regional Administrator, Clive Osgood well.

Clive is one of the most genuine guys I have had the pleasure to meet in this great industry and we hope that you are soon up and mobile again.

I would normally sign off here by saying 'Best of British' but after a fantastic Ryder Cup weekend I shall on this one and only occasion say:

Best of European!

Rob Holland  
Premier Golf  
07545 424880  
www.kentgreenkeepers.com



### Sussex

Hi all!

Our Autumn Tournament was held at Crowborough Beacon Golf Club with a very poor show of members turning up.

The weather forecast may have been part to blame but the rain didn't really materialise to any significance.

Instead it was fog that nearly stopped play.

However, we all soldiered on and I still haven't seen the fantastic views promised.

Perhaps next time.

The results were: Nearest the Pin at 3rd and 8th- Glynn Pollard; Nearest the Pin at 13th - Pete Smith; Individual best score - 1st to Glynn Pollard with 37 points and 2nd place went to Pete Smith with 33 points.

The team event went to Pete

Smith, Trevor Townsend, Steve Vogells and Eric Green.

But the big news from the trade scores was that Steve beat Jon by 3 points.

We thank all at Crowborough Beacon for a great day and offer many, many thanks to our sponsor for the day, Collier Turf.

We'll get Chris out on the course next time.

Thanks again Chris.

**BREAKING NEWS....**

Glynn has had his handicap cut by three.

The Turkey Trot at Worthing Golf Club will be on Friday 30 November with details to be sent out shortly.



### Essex

This month's report has quite a lot of information for section members, with news of two educational events in the section, the forthcoming AGM, plus results from our Autumn Trophy.

Firstly the section is running two educational events and the region is running their annual conference.

Our first event is a seminar day run by Howard Swan, entitled Golf Course Design.

The first was on 30th October, but if you are quick and numbers allow, there could be a place on the second one, to be held at Colne Valley Golf Club on 6th November.

Contact Ian Wood 07952-470861 for information and availability.

The next event we are running is to be held at Channels Golf Club on Tuesday 20th November.

A machinery day when the three major manufacturers will be showing three similar machines from there range, allowing greenkeepers and committee to see and try the best out there, members will be split into three groups allowing around 45 minutes with each company, then we will have a break for lunch followed by a question and answer session, where you can ask your questions of the Big Three.

Members are encouraged to attend this event, as it will be a good chance for you to have your say in the open forum.

The Regional Conference is

## Section Notes

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

being held at Thorpeness Golf & Country Club 14th November if you're interested contact Clive Osgood, ASAP on 07841-948410.

Stock by Nayland was a port of call for our Autumn Trophy and Blind Pairs competition; this was our first visit to this fine club since its inclusion in the Essex Golf Union area and what a day we had.

Most of us started in light rain but this soon passed over to give warm dry conditions.

Our thanks go to the owner of Stock by Nayland and staff for their hospitality.

Also thanks to Course Manager, Kevin King and the Gainsborough Course, Head Greenkeeper, Campbell Murdoch and his staff for the presentation of the course.

The scoring was reasonably low for our first visit, which was not a surprise, as most were unfamiliar with the course.

This made for a challenge in itself.

Scores for the day are as follows:

Cards drawn on the day paired the following players; 1st Campbell Murdock & Michael Fance, 65 Points; 2nd Peter Craig & Antony Kirwan, 65 Points back nine; 3rd Neil Peachey & Nick Spong, 61 Points; Nearest the pins 9th Liam Springet; 18th Neil Peachey; Overall individual winner Antony Kirwan 37 Points.

Our next event is the AGM and Winter team event, to be held at The Essex Golf & Country Club on Thursday 6th December.

Again this year the AGM is before the golf and members are encouraged to attend at 9.00am.

The election of officers this year is for a Chairman, as Mark Stopps has decided to stand down and for one committee member to replace Andy Cracknell.

Also the Trade representative's position is up as Neil Peachey has finished his two year stint and a replacement is sought.

Nominations for the Chairman and Committee positions should be sent to Mark Stopps at mark@bentleygolfclub.com plus nominations from the trade to the same email address please.

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

## SOUTH WEST & WALES



### South West

Things don't get any easier do they, with this said we recently visited Bristol & Clifton GC for our section AGM.

The week running up to the event was possibly the worst it has been all season.

I think this would a perfect time to thank Matt Hawker and his staff for presenting the course in such a positive way making it a truly brilliant for all that attended.

With 30 playing and 35+ for the AGM, another impressive turn out for the south west section.

The competition winners for the day are as follows; 3rd place Joe Curtis 35pts; 2nd place Paul Garland 36pts; and the over all winner was Steve Cubley 37pts, a little local knowledge can go a long way.

With some slightly disappointing news now, the latest section match had to be cancelled.

We were due to play the south coast at Salisbury G.C but due to lack of numbers this fixture could not take place.

I realise that 2012 has been a very difficult year, however let's try our very best in 2013 to attend at least one section match.

Captain Wayne Vincent works extremely hard to get his team together, very often having to chase people just nights before, please help him out!

BTME is now just around the corner, just recently information packs would have landed on your doormats.

This is one of the most important events that happens in our calendar, your attendance is key to the show being a success.

Some fantastic workshops and talks are taking place this year.

Be sure to get your place booked, don't be that person this misses out!

See you all at Bath G.C on 12 December for our Christmas golf day...you know that this is

the highlight of the calendar, Ill see you there!

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, 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 fingertips.

See you all very soon,  
adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk  
07732503855



### South Coast

Hi all,

What a week, coring the greens in the rain, well done to all my staff for sticking at it and finally getting the job done.

Just waiting for the members to ask why the holes are not yet filled!

The Autumn tournament was played at Weymouth Golf Club followed by the AGM.

First thing I have to say is it was the poorest turnout we have ever had with only 17 players.

It is a long journey for some but those that didn't get there missed a delight.

The course was in great condition well done to Rob Bayliss and his team for presenting it so well.

Our sponsors were Rigby Taylor, thanks as always to them for their continued support.

Winners; 1 Rob Mabb 37pts and a gross 72; 2 Mike Gulliver 36pts; 3 Pete Corrick 35pts also gross 72; 4 Chris Bitten 31pts (backnine); 5 Kevan Glass 31pts; 6 George Briggs 29pts.

Nearest the pin went to Pete Corrick and the longest drive probably by fluke because everyone else missed the fairway went to Kev Glass!

The AGM was held before the meal and ran smoothly with little feedback from the floor.

Future AGM meetings will not be held after the Autumn golf event, the committee propose to make this a separate event.

More in a later issue.

The section committee last met at the end of September and were unanimous in their decisions.

The cost of postage is now exorbitant and therefore the fliers and entry forms will stop with immediate effect.

All of our fixtures and information will be posted on the website well in advance of a competition or educational event.

The section secretary Alex will email an entry form to all our members prior to the event.

If Alex has not got your email send it to him on southcoastsecretary@gmail.com.

The fixture card will continue to be sponsored and will be available as soon as possible.

Please also note that payment on the day is not acceptable, we need to know exact numbers well in advance of the day as we are charged for the numbers quoted by Kev a week before the golf.

This happens so often, people call to say put me in and don't turn up on the day, then we end up paying for food that no-one had.

The committee were also unanimous in voting for Joe Cooper to be nominated for a trip to BTME.

Joe has given hours of his own time for the committee and the preparation of his place of work for the seminar, a worthy candidate.

The Turkey trot will be at Hayling Golf Club on Tuesday 4th December, format as last year will be a Texas Scramble in 3's.

Contact glassy2003@hotmail.com for more information and to book your place.

If you haven't got a 3 ball we will attempt to put a team together.

Lastly, don't forget the Regional Conference on 15th November, some great speakers, if you want to go or for more information contact jane@bigga.co.uk.

That's it for this month, I better pacify the team with some new waterproofs!

Tony



# Around The Green



## Devon & Cornwall

Hello all,

Our October meeting was held at East Devon Golf Club on Thursday 11 October.

The day consisted of Golf or a Course walk followed by lunch, a presentation by Paul Newcombe (Head Greenkeeper) and then our AGM.

Unfortunately the weather was not being kind and torrential rain greeted in the morning followed by fog, but nevertheless the golf and the course walk went ahead and all attendees braved the elements.

The course was in fantastic condition and testament to Paul and his team for all their hard work.

In total, 46 members and guests attended the day, with 24 playing golf and the rest on the course walk.

Paul led the course walk and took us to some of the holes that have needed to be moved and redesigned due to the cliff top erosion.

The main aim of the club is to ensure that holes are moved inland sufficiently enough to safeguard the future of the course for another 100 years.

The holes that have been affected have been moved and designed sympathetically to ensure that the unique heathland feel has been kept and the integrity of the course not compromised.

This has certainly been achieved, with a stunning new par 3, 13th hole that with new tees will measure approximately 200 yards.

Indigenous heather turf has been transplanted from the site to achieve heather mounds as standalone hazards and on bunker banks to give a natural feel to the new holes.

Paul's obvious enthusiasm for the game and the course can be seen during the course walk and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the tour.

The golf format for the day was Individual Stableford playing for the "Don Hunt" trophy.

1st place went to Martin Cornish (Launceston) with 30 points, 2nd went to Gary Tuckett (Wrangaton) with 28 points and in 3rd place was Cameron

McMorrin (East Devon) with 26 points.

Nearest the pin on the 10th went to Gavin Moore (Launceston) and Longest Drive on the 12th went to Mark Downing (Launceston).

Congratulations to all those that took part in what were very testing conditions.

Prizes for places were sponsored and presented by Mick Higgins and Jonathan Skelton of Sibelco.

Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive prizes were sponsored and presented by John Palfrey of Avoncrop Amenity.

Huge thanks to our sponsors for the day and for their continued support of the Section.

After a wonderful Carvery lunch, Paul Newcombe gave a short presentation talking through his collection of photos kept during the redevelopment of the course.

This was a great insight into how the decisions in terms of design and construction were made by the club with Paul's influence and guidance.

A huge thank you to Paul, his team of greens staff and all the staff at East Devon GC for their wonderful hospitality throughout the day.

The Section AGM took place after this.

Two changes to the Committee this year, with Tony Gooch (Great Torrington), who is yet to be replaced.

The other change within committee was that Colin Webber (Portmore Park) will be taking over as Treasurer from Steve Harris (Ashbury).

Steve will remain on committee as a Devon representative.

Major topics raised were encouraging members to get involved with CPD and training opportunities and to communicate to the Section and the Association any training needs required.

Also, it was explained to the members how some of the funds that have been building up in the Section had been used to help subsidise training opportunities including travel up to Harrogate.

Thank you to all who attended the AGM.

Minutes are available from the Section Secretary.

Our Christmas meeting this year will be staged at Ashbury Golf Club on Thursday 13th December and will run along the

same lines as last year.

Details will be sent out nearer the time.

George Pitts  
Section Secretary  
Bigga Devon & Cornwall  
07929 754401  
gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com



## South Wales

Good Afternoon all, where do I start? The weather! How is it possible to have so much rainfall in one season and we haven't even entered winter yet! It is a frustrating time for all of us both trade and for you guys out there trying your very best to just even get the golf courses open never mind trying to get perfect shades on fairways and greens.

Members turning up with their latest power caddies wanting to take buggies out if many of you have still got hair I'm sure your pulling it out.

But however much it gets us down just think of the American Ryder cup team 10-6 up at home going into the singles and the Sunday and getting beat 14.5-13.5 that must surely put a smile on our faces!

Our Autumn event has just taken place at Clyne Golf Club I say taken place well I managed 3 holes some played 2 holes some even 9 but 1 group played all 18 holes (they must have been mad) the rain was relentless just 10mins after we teed off in all fairness to Tony and his team's efforts in placing pins in high spots we had no chance of getting around without carrying a squeegee with us even then the rain was constant for 5 hours.

For me it was a first look out onto the course at Clyne and I can't wait to come back and play with better weather.

Thank you Tony for all your efforts in setting up the course and fingers crossed we can all come back soon and finish what we started.

The results though are as follows in 3rd place with 29 points Harvey Tribe fantastic to see Harvey back playing golf with us, 2nd place with 34 points Andy "I had to finish" Roach and in 1st place with 35 points Mark "I'm not coming in with a score

like this" Tucker congratulations all winners.

There has to be two more mentions, Emyr Nickels did complete the 4 ball but unfortunately did not get in the prizes but after 2 years without playing due to shoulder injuries a great effort, and finally a welcome to Alan Hughes from Blackwood golf club a new member to BIGGA and hope he enjoyed the company on the snooker table after the golf rather than the 15mins on the golf course welcome Alan.

Before the golf we held our AGM the committee is to stay the same with no changes for the following season the only changes are to be made to the golfing calendar.

With pressures of work we feel that it is only right that we reduce the number of golf tournaments to 3 from 4 and move them to late October, December and the end of February/ early March to coincide with the easier cutting periods.

We will have matches against the South West and North Wales during the season but exact times and dates to follow.

Also the Rigby Taylor Match-play event will have a new look, it will still be a pairs format but will all be played in one day, full rules and dates TBC.

I would like to close on a few thank yous firstly to Clyne Golf Club for being very hospitable hosts with a fantastic meal after golf.

To Gareth Knight for the continued work he has done this year from pulling patrons together to organising the golf matches and our new annual dinner and dance, our Patrons of the section without the support you and effort your companies put in we couldn't run the way we do now and last but not least you guys the greenkeepers.

Without your time and efforts to attend golf and education events it wouldn't be worth doing! Thanks everyone.

Many Thanks for reading any news or views please contact me at any time.

Kind Regards  
Peter H

