

## Section Notes

Please email your notes to  
[media@bigga.co.uk](mailto:media@bigga.co.uk)  
by the 5th  
of the month

All the latest news from your Section

# Around The Green



## Scottish Region



### East

Well it's mid August and the temperatures are up the rain has subsided and the grass is at its most vibrant. Golf courses are at their best in East Lothian at the moment and there is no sign of disease from the wet weather in June-July.

We wish our team good luck for Norrie Wytock event at Auchterarder on the 16th. S Ferguson, P Butler, A Holmes and G Moran make up the East section team (Bring it home boys!). I met the new Regional Administrator John Young last week and look forward to working with him in the Autumn golf tournament.

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



### Central

At the time of going to press, we are close to confirming 12 September for a one-day irrigation course presented by Adrian Mottram. Full details on the course with costs will be on the website [www.biggacentralsection.org.uk](http://www.biggacentralsection.org.uk) and members will be emailed details in the normal manner.

This is being partly sponsored by the BIGGA learning and development fund so as well as being an excellent course it will be great value. The results of the autumn outing at Piperdam on 19th Sept will also be on the website as soon as practical. This magazine might just be out

before the closing date so any last minute entries, please get in touch pronto. The pairs event will have reached the final stage by then.

On behalf of everyone in the Section, a huge thanks to Andy Mellon for all he did for the section in his time on Committee. As well as his stint as Secretary/Treasurer he was always helping in other areas particularly in the use of the training room at Elmwood. His actual leaving date crept up on us and took us a little by surprise and we didn't have the time to organise a farewell. We did manage to get him a nice bottle of malt on behalf of all the members so by the time he reads this he will hopefully have had the opportunity to grab a seat and sample a drop. Best wishes from us all Andy, I'm sure most of us will get the chance to catch up with you at BTME.

Gordon Moir



### West

Just a couple of things to mention for the coming months as autumn comes upon us and the sun is shining outside for a change, why do Scots always talk about the weather I wonder? Ross Fraser our new Secretary has confirmed the autumn outing venue at Ferenze Golf Club on 18 September. The AGM will once again be at Renfrew Golf Club with a date and speaker still to be confirmed but this will be sometime in October as usual.

Disappointingly the Scottish outing held at Ratho Park golf club was poorly attended by the west section as only five people from our area managed to go along to an excellent venue and educational days golf, the sec-

tion did however did reasonably well picking up some prizes.

As Chairman of the Scottish section of the Association I was asked to sit on the panel to select the candidate to represent Scotland at the Student of the Year competition sponsored by Toro. I was very impressed by the quality coming through and the enthusiasm expressed by all the candidates and I hope Christopher Watson is successful in his bid to achieve this award.

Congratulations to Alasdair MacDiarmid on being appointed Head Greenkeeper of Bothwell Castle GC, the section wishes him well in his new role and hopes he enjoys a successful tenure at the club.

Recently Gavin Jarvis resigned as Head Greenkeeper of Helensburgh GC which was disappointing to hear but I hope he enjoys his new venture and we wish him all the best from the section for the future.

The results for the Norrie Whytock trophy held at Auchterarder golf club on 16 August will be included in the next edition of the magazine.

Please remember to contact me with any information you may want included for future additions, I can be contacted on 07790823914 or 01419 425554, or by e-mail on [stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com](mailto:stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com).

Best wishes for the rest of the season.

Stuart Taylor

## Northern Region



### Northern

Afternoon sports fans...I had the pleasure of being part of a fantastic support team at the recent Open at Royal Lytham last month and am still feeling

the effects now! The whole experience was truly amazing, from seeing the fantastic golf played to the wonderful state of the course...unbelievable.

Right from the top boys and girls at HQ to the girls feeding us at the hotel everything was top drawer. Rachel, Tracy and Sandra were brilliant and even Mr Young had his moments, nothing was too much trouble for these guys and the whole event ran very smoothly. The early starts to the late bedtimes took its toll but just having the chance to walk with the players and watch them play more than made up for it. For me the highlight was chatting to Tom Watson and getting a signed golf ball after he commented on my bunker repair! I think back to being shown how to rake bunkers many moons ago by Mat Bulmer at Ilkley who I worked, sorry turned up with at Hollins Hall, good training old boy!

So to the section golf, it's invitation day at Horsforth next followed by our rearranged Sheffield match up in September, at the moment the numbers are good for them both!

If any of you guys are interested of playing in the Nationals in October please get in touch and maybe we can share cars to make it easy for us.

That's it for this month folks, one last thing the missus is coming out of retirement and helping out the boys at Baildon golf club for a couple of weeks...

Andy Slingsby  
07506407867  
[andy.slingsby98@googlemail.com](mailto:andy.slingsby98@googlemail.com)



### North East

First on the agenda this month is the news of Head

Greenkeeper Stuart Imeson of Dunstanburgh Castle Golf Club on making into the final six in the Toro Student of the year. Stuart, aged 20, has now been in this role for a couple of years and is attending Newcastle College. He's currently studying for his level 3 and wants to continue on to level 4 - last year Jon Watson of Burgham Park had also qualified for the Toro Student of the year, well done our local College.

Last month I had the pleasure and the company of our new Regional Administrator Sandra Raper on board to start going around the section to visit courses who had members and those who didn't. Our first stop was Tyneside GC who once had five members. We had an interesting meeting with staff and a meeting with the Club Manager, then off we went to Dunstanburgh Castle, Bamburgh Castle, Alnwick, and finally Longhirst Hall where we picked up two new members straight away.

Out of all this we had very good news from Tyneside and Dunstanburgh as both clubs are joining the section so not a bad days work in all - nine new members. Further visits are planned in the coming months in fact by the time you read this we will have been around the Newcastle area.

It was recently decided at a Section Committee meeting that the venue for the Autumn Comp be changed. It was felt that at this moment in time we are not likely to get many to make a 100 mile round trip. A letter was sent to the Secretary of Wooler GC a few weeks ago, now a new venue has been booked this will be at Tyneside GC on October 10th tee booked from 11am to approx 11.45 at the latest. Well that's it for another month.

Jimmy Richardson



**Sheffield**

As we close in on the end of another golf season we can all reflect on our performance over it. When we see such big competitions on tv constantly raising the standards golfers demand, it is important sometimes to take a step back and look at what we have on our own courses and evaluate if we are achieving the most from it.

We are reminded often of the importance of being the keepers of the land and the responsibility we have to maintain the land and to maintain the land in the most natural way we possibly can which all adds pressure to the job. If we do take the time to take a step back and reflect I'm sure most of us will appreciate what a wonderful profession we are in, even though we all have something to complain about now and again we are very lucky to have a wonderful office to work in each day.

On the section front I would like to thank everyone at Phoenix Sports and Social Club for what was an excellent day for our summer competition. Everyone who attended commented on how good the course was and they were all very pleased with the food at the end. Results for the day are on our Facebook page. We would also like to thank the sponsor on the day and also thank all our sponsors for their support of the year.

I would also like to congratulate Stewart Piggott on completing his 24 hour golf challenge. Stewart completed six and a half rounds in the 24 hours. If anyone did sponsor Stewart can you please get your money to him as soon as you possibly can and if anyone would like to sponsor him then there is still time. Congratulations to Stewart once again on what was a fantastic achievement and all the proceeds will go to a very worthy cause.

That's all from me at the minute but I will be back next month with news on upcoming golf matches and some news on our winter lecture programme.

Bye for now and just take some time one day soon and have a minute to look round your office and realise how lucky you are.

James Stevens  
jimmy\_jams20@hotmail.com  
07738719614



**North Wales**

This time of year we parents give a grateful sigh of relief as we wave our increasingly bored children back off to school and in work we also know club finals and the autumn season are only just around the corner.

A cautionary tale from Darren

Anderson MG at Abergele GC. Make sure your fuel tanks are safe, his diesel tank at Abergele got drained and the thieves cut through two gates and a lock to get to it!

27 July we played the inaugural North Wales v South Wales match at Aberdovey GC and we won! Many thanks to all who played and of course the sponsors, Rigby Taylor, Countrywide and Farmura. Without you all this event would not be possible. Many thanks again. And a special thanks to Richard Dixon from the golf union of Wales who gave a short speech on the importance of greenkeeping in Wales.

On 7 August we also played the annual North Wales v North West match at Lymm GC and although Stu Yarwood MG gave the lads a course to be proud of they lost. I'm sure the lads looked resplendent in their new BIGGA t-shirts.

The North Wales v North West cricket match which was due to be played at Ashley Cricket Club on 18th July had to be postponed due to a lack of players. I understand Nick Grey is trying to rearrange a date, we'll keep you posted through this column or the Facebook group 'North Wales BIGGA'.

Just a quick reminder that

the autumn tournament takes place on the 11 September at St Melyd GC, I hope to see you all there.

I think that's about it for now so all the best until next month.

Pete Maybury e-mail petemayb66@aol.com text or phone 07756001187

## Midland Region



**Midland**

You may see a different style to these notes this month as Sean is away 'gone fishing'. Some may be relieved thinking they might be able to understand the content this month, but I and many others look forward to reading Sean's notes, especially when we get a small glimpse into his thoughts. What a fascinating place it must be inside that remarkable head of his, and no, it's not true he and David Hasselhoff are related!

Unfortunately for Sean we have received some news from a greenkeeper this month. Sean has been waiting for some genuine greenkeeper news

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# Around The Green

directly from a greenkeeper for years, and when it arrives he is not here to report it, better luck next time pal! David Bevan, Course Manager at Overstone Park GC in Northampton would like to share some wonderful news that he and his partner Rachel have just had their first child, Mia weighing 6lb 15oz. Congratulations to you all and thank you for sharing the news with us.

The rearranged summer tournament at Oxley Park has just taken place, the results will be in next month's notes. Please be aware that the Autumn Tournament and AGM is fast approaching, venue being Druids Heath GC in Aldridge on Thursday 25 October. This is preceded by the Section's Autumn Education Day on Wednesday 24 October featuring Headland Amenity at the Forest of Arden. A full programme of events for the day, as well as entry forms for the golf days can be found on the website [www.biggamidlandsection.co.uk](http://www.biggamidlandsection.co.uk).

September sees the final of the 'Everris' Doubles competition. At this moment the semi-finals are being contested between the remaining four pairs. The final is being held at The Belfry, around the magnificent Brabazon course, on Wednesday 26th September. Good luck to the lucky finalists. We would like to thank Emma Kilby and Everris for their continued support of this event, and for this month's calendar sponsorship. Please consider them for your fertiliser, chemical or seed needs. You can contact Emma on 07748 111965.

Glad that's over, come back Sean all is forgiven!

Ed Stant, Section Chairman  
Tel: 07535 712232



## East Midlands

It has been two months since my last magazine notes as I have been spending my time finishing building an ark to rescue the whole of Leicestershire from the biblical storms and rainfall that we have experienced. Just as it was ready to set sail the waters retreated, the sun appeared in the sky and a kind of summer

commenced. And then our work this year really began!

Competitions, Societies, Captains' Days, Ladies' Opens and Mixed Opens have been postponed/cancelled/abandoned/rescheduled, then suddenly within a matter of a few days everything was drying out and a well presented golf course was required. Not an unreasonable request in the middle of 'summer'. A nice little sideline in hay production would have brought in some of our club's lost revenue such was the volume of grass clippings being produced and a doubling of manpower would also have proved beneficial too.

Chatting to local greenkeepers who are in the same boat (no pun intended), does give you hope. This is something that I would strongly advocate to all greenkeepers as networking amongst colleagues gives you the opportunity to exchange ideas or simply put the world to rights and you put the phone down and feel some of the weight lifted from your shoulders.

No golf to really report on at section level this month, although we will have had our Par 3 competition at Nailcote Hall by the time you read this, and we will be planning for our AGM competition at Glen Gorse GC on September 20. Invites for this will be emailed only as the spiralling cost of postage will impact the section greatly unless we modernise our approach. This does impact on people who do not have internet/email facilities but I would ask anyone who knows any of the other 195 greenkeepers in the section to forward the information or advise them in whatever way they can that the event is happening. It will appear on the BIGGA website as well.

Glen Gorse is a beautiful course, kept in fantastic condition by Frank Kempster and his team and everyone there will no doubt makes us all extremely welcome. The profile of members attending these events has changed dramatically over the last few years and some of the 'old' faces would be very welcome to come along, swap stories, have a laugh and enjoy some competitive golf. As I have said many times the committee want to include as many members as possible in all our events and the golf events are the best supported so please come along if you can.

News in the area really centres around our new Regional Administrator, Sandra Raper who has rejoined BIGGA to take over from the retiring Pete Larter. Sandra has been out and about within her new section getting to know people and understand the needs and requirements of the members. She is already planning an Autumn Seminar for November and is having a big impact within the Midlands/Northern Region that she is responsible for.

Her impact was also felt by one of my member's cars when she visited Forest Hill in July. Unfortunately his stationary five week old car appeared to jump out and hit Sandra's three day old moving car. Seriously though on behalf of the East Midlands Section I would like to wish Sandra all the very best for her new role and hope her efforts benefit BIGGA as an organisation.

Christmas is coming and the goose is getting fat...

Greg Skinner  
07970 095264

## South East Region



### Mid Anglia

Hello everybody I hope everyone is feeling more upbeat after the change in weather to more normal summer conditions. I am putting this together as the Olympics draws to close and feel that the efforts of Team GB has put some pride back into our great island and really captured the public's imagination - plus we totally stuffed the Aussies which is always nice!

Moving on we had our second tournament of the Year a Pairs competition hosted at John O'Gaunt GC. 36 players took part on a very warm day which made for very testing and draining conditions.

Results: 1 R Dowling and D Gass from Mid Herts GC 43 points; 2 P Rolfe and R Goddard from Ashridge GC 41 points; 3 N Broadwith and G Merrison from John O'Gaunt GC 40 points

Nearest the Pin in two shots on 11th went to A Butler. Near-

est the Pin on 16th went to S Boittier

Well done to Rob and Dave on winning this despite having to spend most of their round looking for my ball in the rough or trees on most holes. They were great company and we had a giggle which is what these days are all about. Our thanks go to Nigel and his team for the fantastic condition we found the course in it was appreciated by all who attended.

Mid Anglia's next outing will be at Verulam Golf Club on October 25 so please get your entries in nice and early as I am sure it will be very popular and is only £15 entry fee so excellent value for money at such a lovely venue.

Darren Mugford - [d.mugford@rigbytaylor.com](mailto:d.mugford@rigbytaylor.com)



### East Anglia

I don't miss many of our golf days, but I couldn't be in two places at once. By all accounts, Haverhill Golf Club was the place to be. About forty souls turned out to play an immaculate course thanks to Glenn Norris and his crew. The catering was second to none.

The prizes were presented by Steve Ward club captain to:

0-10 Handicap; 1 Mat Gill 35 Points; 2 Jonathan Smart 33 Points; 11-20 Handicap 1 Andy Baker 34 Points - OCB; 2 John Andrews 34 points; 21-28 Handicap; 1 Ian Willett 31 Points; 2 Martin Myson 25 Points

Guests & Trade; 1 Edward Fairhead 32 Points; 2 Steve Creasey 31 Points

Longest Drive - Peter Sissons  
Nearest Pin - Jonathan Smart; Loo Seat Recipient - Martin Myson for nearly killing his captain (no Christmas box this year then!)

Last, but not least - Captain & Greenkeeper Shield was won by Mike Virly and Steve Creasey - 64 Points. 2nd was Ian Willett and Chris Scott - 60 Points. The main sponsors were Leyley UK/Toro.

Other loyal sponsors were:- Bartram Mowers, Aitkens, Tacit, Tomlinson Groundcare, Ben Burgess, Rigby Taylor, Tex-

tron, Ransomes and Headland. Thanks again Haverhill Golf Club. Sorry I missed it.

Pause for thought. My old boss, Phil Staines, passed away last week. In 1964 I was his apprentice at Maylands Golf Club in Essex. I became his first assistant four years later under his guidance, expertise and patience. One day early on, I asked him what a committee was – he'd had a bit of a run in with the chairman. He said "It was the unfit, appointed by the unwilling, to do the unnecessary". No change there then. God bless you mate.

Mick Lathrope



## Kent

If I could write songs I would be penning one right now entitled "I got those post Olympic blues".

The unbridled joy of watching a multitude of diverse sports thanks to the BBC's superb coverage has converted me totally to the worlds of gymnastics, athletics, archery, cycling and, of course, beach volleyball.

Before these momentous games the scaremongers in the media had us all believing that the whole event would be a disaster because of issues surrounding security, transport and tickets but Britain truly delivered the best games ever on every single level to confound and silence the most hardened critic. A wave of pride swept the nation as the medal tally grew out of all proportion to the geographical size of our country as the public embraced the unbelievable achievements of our athletes. A heady cocktail of success, pride and excellence has left many of us hungover after the greatest two weeks of sport ever witnessed.

It wasn't just a success for our athletes either. The now proven organisational capabilities of a driven committee who refused to be bogged down in a sea of scepticism and bureaucracy was a credit to the nation.

The expected lull in green fees during the games never materialised either. Many of

us, through some ingenious marketing were able to capitalise on the period by having Olympic themed events and products on our courses. With golf featuring in the next Olympics it never need suffer again.

Go Team GB!!

On to news from our section and our summer pairs knock-out competition is well under way with early preliminary rounds seeing the progression of Russ Bain and Adam Marable from Chislehurst who beat Darren Burdis and Alan Harvey from West Kent 3 & 2. Also last years' champion, Tim Maynard now paired with Lee Austin of Wildernesse scraped to victory against myself and Darren Child. Obviously, two weeks of watching beach volleyball did my golf swing no good whatsoever!

Good luck to our victors and everyone still involved in the competition.

We have another golf day approaching on September 27 at Boughton Golf Club. Please let Kev or I know asap if attending so we can make the necessary catering arrangements.

I'll leave it there for now but don't forget to check our website for up to the minute news and events. Enjoy the rest of your summer and may the very best of British fortune shine on us all.

Rob Holland

[www.kentgreenkeepers.com](http://www.kentgreenkeepers.com)



## South Coast

As you read this another season is drifting by, lets hope we get a settled end to the summer. It has just started to rain "again" so I thought I would profit and write this article.

Not much to report on the golf side, only the annual match against the Wessex Secretaries for the coveted Course Care Cup. This year we played at Rushmore Park where the course was presented in excellent condition, well done to Clive Browning and his team for their great work. Clive and Tony Crouch both retire from the greenkeeping team at Rushmore this year so may I

take this opportunity to wish them both the best possible retirement doing whatever they like.

Back to the match where the Greenkeepers triumphed again 3 games to 2 to take the tally for the cup to 9 ½ to 6 ½ well done all of the team, especially the final pairing of Robert Hogarth and Ed Carey who were 4 down with 5 to play and won! As always our thanks go to Course Care for their generosity in sponsoring the event, long may it continue. Finally thanks to Rushmore for their hospitality and excellent food.

The next match against the S Westgreenkeepers at SWilts GC on 20 September so if anyone wants to play let me know. The Autumn tournament is on 4 October at Weymouth GC. As usual contact Kevan Glass with your entry [glassy2003@hotmail.com](mailto:glassy2003@hotmail.com), the cost will be £25, please remember to pay well in advance of the day. If food is booked for you and you don't turn up, there will be no refund, as we are charged for the booked number.

The committee are working on next years seminar that will be held at Milton Abbey school again, an event not to missed, more on the speakers in the next issue.

Here at Barton we have just got through the club championship weekend, very warm with a strong easterly wind, no better conditions for a cliff top location. Aerating this week to help relieve the stress we put the greens under last week and then it rains again! Think I might go fishing to take my mind off the golf course, that is if I can get the beach hut door open for the first time this year. Until next month, keep on cutting.

Tony Gadd



## Surrey

Wednesday August 15. It's raining for the first time after summer has visited us for several days and therefore the erection of my gazebo must cease until it stops. Chateau Willmott is still being renovated and I am never anything but busy.

## Assistant Profile

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

### Name:

John Day

### Age:

37 years old

### Club:

Gaudet Luce

### Golf Club,

Droitwich

### Position:

Assistant Greenkeeper

### Nickname:

Big John



### 1. How long have you been greenkeeping?

16 Years

### 2. What was it about the career that attracted you?

Working in the outdoors

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

Merchandise sales or roadie for rock and metal bands on tour

### 4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?

Cutting greens. This is often the most important from a golfer's perspective and a job well done creates a good impression and sets the standard for the whole course.

### 5. Which task do you least enjoy doing and why?

There isn't any particular task that I dislike.

### 6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot?

Sun all year round!

### 7. Hobbies?

Concerts, films and Ebay

### 8. Favourite Band?

Can't choose one favourite but it is between Aerosmith and Megadeth

### 9. Which team do you support (football or otherwise)?

The A Team! (remember that?!)

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

Losing 5 and a half stone and becoming a helper at my local slimming club.



# Around The Green

## **BIGGA welcomes the following new members**

### **Scotland**

Ryan Shannon, Ayrshire Section  
Michael McLeod, North Section  
Scott Crawford, West Section  
Neil Paris, West Section

### **Northern Region**

Stephen Millar, North West Section  
Daniel Drake, Northern Section  
Matthew Alderton, Sheffield Section  
Christopher Hill, Sheffield Section

### **Midland Region**

Robert Andrews, Berks/Bucks & Oxon Section  
Adam Lovejoy, Berks/Bucks & Oxon Section  
David Patterson, Berks/Bucks & Oxon Section  
Mark Carter, East Midland Section  
Gavin Keyworth, East Midland Section  
Bradley Blacker, Mid Anglia Section  
David Collins, Midland Section  
Matthew Emslie, Midland Section  
Emma Kilby, Midland Section  
Gareth Waite, Midland Section  
Kenny Wright, Midland Section

### **South East Region**

Robert Barnard, East Anglia Section  
Andy Spetch, East Anglia Section  
Grant Hedley, Surrey Section

### **Sth West/Sth Wales Region**

Martin Cornish, Devon & Cornwall Section  
James Jones, Devon & Cornwall Section  
Robert Sadler, Devon & Cornwall Section  
Paul Dutton, South Coast Section

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

I thought that I had reached an age when life slowed down and warm summer afternoons were spent sipping champagne on the lawn. No, at a time when I should relax I find that am still laying said lawn, decorating and writing next month's article for this fine magazine. Sipping champagne is a pipe dream and will have to wait until my first harvest of grapes is picked, fermented, bottled, had its second fermentation, and left to age in my cellar. Of course, you've realised I am joking, I do not have a cellar and the garden shed will have to do.

The McMillan tankard at Sunningdale GC was played for on July 16 and was won by Steve Alabaster and Mark Brookes was runner up. Anthony Freeman secured the longest drive and the nearest the pin was again Mark Brookes. Many thanks to Sunningdale GC for allowing us our yearly visit and also many thanks to Jack McMillan who presented the tankard and prizes. The barbecue that followed was burnt by yours truly with the aid of Paul [Oliver] Weston and the only cases of food poisoning left the local dogs determined never again to beg from strangers.

Brian Willmott

Brian.willmott@hotmail.co.uk



**South West**

I want to say a huge well done to all the support workers that were involved at Royal Lytham & St Annes for this year's Open championship. During some very tough times weather wise and with over 200 bunkers, you guys did us very proud.

On Friday 10 August captain Wayne Vincent took his team to Royal Porthcawl GC, and this was unfortunately coming on the back of a defeat. Not playing myself (getting that part in early...) the team travelled over the bridge and onto Porthcawl

in high hopes! This being a very hot day, I hear that some of our guys left their clubs at home and thought their sun lounges would be a better option. I hate to say this, but we lost this very important fixture 4-2, however I have been promised this won't be happening again next year.

I write this while watching the closing ceremony from London 2012, and it made me realise that as a nation we really do know how to put on a show. The opening ceremony was fantastic, during the games Great Britain were awesome, beating any previous medal count. I'm sure many of you spent hours watch the games, and found it equally motivating. With the games closing in such a great fashion, we come together as a nation. Very proud times!

As for the section, Thursday 4 October will be our next event, this is our AGM and will take place at Bristol & Clifton Golf Club. I would also like to thank 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.

I would like to finish on a very positive note, and one that the section is very proud of. Chris Sealey is now BIGGA vice chairman, this is very well deserved. Chris, as a section we wish you all the very best in your future role, good luck!

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

07732503855



**Essex**

After a couple of months of inactivity in the section we are back with a vengeance.

Tom Smith, Ben Scrivener

and I went up to the Open Championship as part of the support team and what a time we had, long days, up early and to bed late but a feast of memories to stay with us for many a year.

The Olympics are a thing of the past, and what a joyous period it was, more medals than were expected and some surprises to boot.

Grass seems to keep growing and that dormant period around July, August has not materialised, at least for the time being the rain seems to have subsided.

We have just held our Summer Trophy and National Qualifier, Rochford Hundred Golf Club was the venue and what a day they had, the course was set up by Head Greenkeeper, Dave Rand and his staff, comments such as fantastic were regularly heard and every one there thoroughly enjoyed the event. The sun shone and so did the golf as the results show.

Results for the day are as follows.

Division 1. 1st Antony Kirwan, 40 points. 2nd Andy Cracknell 36 points.

Division 2. 1st Dougie Fernie, 40 points. 2nd Ross Bennett, 38 points.

Trade/Sponsors. 1st James Tuckwell, 35 points; Guest. Tony Rand; National Qualifier: Dougie Fernie

The next golf day is the Autumn Trophy at Stoke by Nayland Golf & Spa on Wednesday 26th September, entries to: Antony Kirwan by 20th September please. At - Play Golf Colchester, Bakers Lane, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4AU. Entries are £20 Members/Sponsors and £25 Guests.

It's just a short one this month, but exciting news to come next month, on two seminars to be run by the section and our overdue trip to the Hurlingham Club.

If you have anything for inclusion 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

# BTME is back

for it's 24th year, at the Harrogate International Centre

► BIGGA TURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION ► 22-24 JANUARY 2013