

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.