



Callum beats Long Odds to Triumph

A promising teenage greenkeeper helped his club scoop a coveted trophy – after being called away from repairing a bunker to play a crucial round.

Trainee Callum Long, 17, had to race to the first tee to compete in the St Ives Junior Cup final after a player dropped out at the last minute. Despite still wearing his work clothes, he held his nerve together with teammate Michael Cato to win the cup in a dramatic sudden death play-off.

Callum, who plays off 12, is currently studying for a diploma in greenkeeping while working at St Ives Golf Club, Cambridgeshire, as part of his work-based training.

He said: “I was repairing a bunker when the junior organizer came over to tell me someone had dropped out, and asked if I could

play in the Junior Cup Final.

“It was a bit of a surprise to say the least, but luckily I had my golf shoes at the club. Before I knew it I was in a golf cart heading to the first tee. I still had my work clothes on. It was tiring because I had got up that morning at 5.30am to start work, and because it went to a play-off I didn’t finish until about 6.30pm, but I knew I had to keep my concentration because it was an important competition.

“It just goes to show that maybe you don’t need to do too much preparation, my partner and I played some good golf on the day and I was very pleased to help us win the cup.”

Callum was delighted by his success as was everyone at the club, particularly Course Manager Phil Gates.



SOUTH COAST DEFEAT SECRETARIES IN CARE CUP

South Coast Greenkeepers achieved a notable victory in the 16th Annual Course Care Cup.

Held at Rushmoor Golf Club, the Wessex Secretaries were keen to reverse last year’s close defeat in fine weather. The match was again hard-fought and extremely close, with the result coming down to the final two holes of the day – and the greenkeepers prevailed winning by three matches to two.

An excellent meal followed and thanks from all were extended to Highspeed Group for sponsoring the event.

PICTURE: Highspeed Group’s Area Manager, Paul Dyter is shown presenting the trophy to Tony Gadd, Chairman of BIGGA South Coast Section.

HOME COMFORTS FOR VERULAM

Verulam Golf Club took full advantage of hosting the BIGGA Golf Management Trophy by winning the competition on home turf. The event, sponsored by Tacit, provided an excellent prize table.

The Verulam team of Robin Farrer, Chris Carpenter, Don Longarvie and Neville Custance triumphed with 85 points. Second place went to Buckingham Golf Club with 81 points, the team included Brian Piggott, Peter Frost, David Barnes and Chris Wilkes. Third place went to John O’Gaunt Golf Club with 77 points on count back.

The format was a stableford, four ball better ball with the best two scores on each hole to count.

Nearest The Pin was won by Paul Toyer from St Neots Golf Club and the Longest Drive winner was Simon Woolley from Brickenden Grange Golf Club. Thanks to all who attended.

Attention BIGGA Members

Have you got anything that you think might be of interest to other BIGGA members reading these pages? We are always on the lookout for news, stories and goings-on within our membership.

Also, if you are doing something outside of your day-to-day greenkeeping role, let us know about it. Maybe a fun activity or a sponsored run? Please feel free to get in touch with our new Communications Executive, Steve Castle on 01347 833800 ext 510 or email steve.castle@bigga.co.uk with your news (and photographs!)

North and South Wales Come Together in Battle



An idea which began over a chat at the last BTME resulted in the first BIGGA golf battle between North and South Wales BIGGA members.

The tournament was the brainchild of Gareth Knight from Trefloyne Golf Course and Rhys Butler of Aberdovey Golf Course – and Rhys agreed to host the inaugural event.

Gareth, South Wales Secretary, takes up the story: “Rhys kindly booked the dormy rooms for the south team and we decided on two teams of eight players.

“We were very lucky to gain sponsorship for both teams, John Mooney of Rigby Taylor organising the North Wales team sponsorship and Peter Holmstrom from Countrywide sponsoring the South Wales team.

“We teed off at 2pm. It was a light breeze at Aberdovey for the North Wales Links Boys, however blowing a gale as far as we were concerned! Strong winds and a tight Links course made it tough conditions for some of the inland parkland green keepers.

“The course was excellent, a beautiful coastal setting, the true untamed elements of the natural rolling links creating an exhilarating rustic and natural course.

“Colt, Braid and Fowler have all had a hand in shaping the course over the years, with tight lies, rolling fairways, natural bunkers, undulating approaches, dry firm surfaces and true, fast greens, a joy for any standard of golfer.

“The match was very close with three of the games heading to the 18th hole, the result being 3-1 to the North Wales team.

“We all sat down to a beautiful meal after and were joined by Richard Dixon of the Golfing Union of Wales who said a few words, speeches were made and the rest of the evening was enjoyed by both teams embracing the delights that Aberdovey had to offer.

“Thank you to Rigby Taylor, Countrywide and Farmura for their continued support and assisting this event, Trade involvement is so important to all section events.

Thank you to all the BIGGA members that travelled far and wide to support the day, and to Richard Dixon of the GUV for his support and Aberdovey for hosting the event.

“The Organisation for next year’s event is already underway and we hope it to be as successful as the last. This proves once again how important networking can be at the BTME show.”



KINGS OF THE CASTLE

Bothwell Castle Golf Club have appointed a new Head Greenkeeper and an Assistant Head Greenkeeper.

Alasdair McDermid, who has been Acting Head Greenkeeper for the past year at the parkland course near Glasgow, has accepted the permanent role of Head Greenkeeper. He’s been with the club for 20 years.

Stewart Carbray, who has been employed by Bothwell since 2000, is now Assistant Head Greenkeeper. Stewart has been Acting Assistant since last year.

Everyone at BIGGA congratulates Alasdair and Stewart, and wishes them every success in their permanent roles.

Picture: Stewart (left) and Alasdair

BIGGA AND GCMA DATE

The BIGGA and GCMA seminar takes place in the South West Section on Thursday October 18.

Chipping Sodbury Golf Club is the venue for a host of speakers including former British Women's Open champion Vivien Saunders and Toro's Andrew Brown who will be looking at water resource management.

There will also be an afternoon presentation outdoors showcasing the benefits of the Blinder Bunker Liner so outdoor clothes will be required – the dress code for the day is smart casual. Lunch and refreshments will be supplied.

By attending this seminar, BIGGA and GCMA members will receive Continuing Professional Development points.

This exciting seminar costs just £20 per person (or £50 for three delegates) – and the closing date for registration is Friday 12 October. There is a maximum of three delegates per club.

So if you're a golf club secretary, manager or course manager, please send cheques - made payable to GCMA South West Region – to Karen Drake, Weston super Mare Golf Club, Uphill Road North, Weston super Mare BS23 4NQ.

For any queries, or further information about the day, please contact Karen on 01934 626968 or at wsmgolfclub@eurotelbroadband.com

BIGGA Welcomes Communications Exec

BIGGA are delighted to announce that Steve Castle has joined the Association as Communications Executive.

An appointment that strengthens the editorial team at Greenkeeper International, Steve has bedded in comfortably, finding his feet in his new role, whilst mixing in very quickly and easily with everyone at BIGGA House.

Steve, who even managed a game of golf with his new colleagues, one night, brings with him experience of working as reporter for Ross Parry Agency Ltd, which syndicates news stories to national newspapers and magazines.

"I covered court cases, inquests as well as anything from press conferences with lottery winners to exclusive and sensitive interviews with members of the public," Steve told us.

Looking forward to writing for GI, Steve also expressed interest in finding out more about you, the member.



"Having really enjoyed my first two weeks working at BIGGA House, it is clear that the editorial directive is all about BIGGA members - I'm very much looking forward to hearing about members, what they are doing in and outside the club."

"From the stories I've received so far, it's clear that all sorts of interesting things are taking place, and we encourage every BIGGA member to feel free about approaching me with anything which might be worth a mention on these pages."

JULIE JOINS BIGGA



Julie Wilkins has joined BIGGA as Assistant Account. Julie has a wealth of experience in the financial area, starting off as an office junior. Her last position was at VMC in Warwickshire as Finance Assistant.

She said: "I'm really looking forward to the opportunity, and have been made to feel very welcome by all the team. I'm particularly looking forward to increasing my financial knowledge working with Finance and Procurement Manager Steve Wragg.

"I've also moved to a lovely part of the world which is a bonus, and am looking to join a local golf club."

Julie, who hails from Staffordshire, is also a keen cyclist



Jack and Rita award McMillan Tankard to Ernest Doe's Steve

Steve Alabaster scooped the McMillan tankard at the recent Surrey Section golf tournament.

Now in its 23rd year, the popular tournament again attracted many competitors and their guests to the New Course at Sunningdale Golf Club.

Scoring proved tough on a breezy day with many balls finding the heater off the fairways. However, Steve defied the conditions, finishing level on 34 points with Mark Brooks from Sunningdale. Steve emerged victorious after enjoying a better score on the final six holes.

Mark did win the nearest the pin competition with Anthony Freeman from Merrist Wood winning the longest drive.

Many thanks to Murray Long and his team for producing another magnificently prepared course fully appreciated by all on the day.

PICTURED: Jack and Rita McMillan present the winner's tankard to Steve

North East Competition Venue Change

Please note the venue has changed for the North East Autumn competition. It will be played on October 10 at Tyneside GC. This replaces the original venue of Wooler GC