

and professional championships and events, including five European Opens, The Ryder Cup, the US Open qualifying and recently the Senior Open Championship. On March 8 the South East regional members and their guests prepared to test themselves on the Old Course.

However, it was simply not to be. The rain Gods had put the Old Course to the test and only after a prolonged deluge, the event had to be called off. John Paramour entertained the 100 or so well turned out golfers who listened to fascinating accounts of a chief referee on the European Tour as the catering staff served some of Walton Heath's gastronomic delights.

Clive Osgood organised this event with Swiss precision to ensure all departments came together on the day. Thank you Clive and thank you to all who attended.

Mark Day



## KENT

I was hoping to be writing this report following a landmark day in the history of our section as we were due to be playing the one and only Royal St. Georges Golf Club on 12 March. Unfortunately, the day before the event, Mother Nature conspired to scupper things by unleashing the 'beast from the East', which brought snow, minus seven wind chill and general misery to most of the country. As I write this the snow is still falling as we are again reminded of the fickle nature of our seasons and that nothing can be taken for granted in so far as programming renovation works or golf days are concerned. This is the first event that we have had to cancel in the eight years that I have been section secretary so I suppose we should not be too downhearted.

There's not much else to report so I would just like to take this opportunity to thank all of our sponsors for their generosity this year. Your funding ensures that we can put on superb golfing, educational and other fun events for our mem-

bers. Your details our proudly displayed on our webpage to encourage as much extra business as possible. Please visit our webpage for up to the minute news and events. Hopefully Springtime is just around the corner!

Rob Holland 07545 424880  
www.kentgreenkeepers.com



## SUSSEX

I would like to start my report with the news that Ian Gosling has been appointed as Head Greenkeeper at East Brighton Golf Club. Ian has worked at the club as Deputy Head Greenkeeper for a number of years. I am sure that you will all join me in wishing him all the best in his new role. Also I would like to welcome to Sussex Nick Stevens who has just been appointed as Head Greenkeeper at Seaford Head Golf Club. Nick was previously the Head Greenkeeper at Carmarthen Golf Club in Wales, which was Welsh Golf Club of the Year in 2011. Again, I am sure that you will join me in wishing him all the best (as long as he doesn't bring the weather from Wales with him, we have had enough rain thank you!). Both courses would make smashing venues for a BIGGA competition!

The Spring Competition & National Championships Qualifier is now just around the corner - this event will be held at The Dyke Golf Club in Brighton on 23 May. Entry forms for this competition and the section's away day at Littlestone golf club in June will be coming out soon, so make sure that you have got this date in your diary as places on the away day will be limited and available to those attending the qualifier as priority. If you would like any further information, please contact Peter Smith or give me a call.

At the time of writing we have four inches of snow, and yet last year we were in the grip of the great drought, with record high temperatures in March and no end in sight to the dry weather, hosepipe bans were in place and drought orders applied for. Who would have thought the last 12 months would pan out

quite as they have! What will this season bring? Let's hope it's a boring and consistent one with nice average temperatures and rainfall, fingers crossed!

Finally, a funny story comes back from America where two of our members attended the GCSAA show followed by some down time in Las Vegas. After checking in at the hotel they returned to their courtesy bus to find the driver had broken the key off in the lock of the luggage compartment! Guests at the five-star Trump International were then entertained by the sight of two greenkeepers' ingenuity as they were forced to break into this "highly secure" vehicle, using just two screwdrivers obtained from the valet parking desk!

Chris Humphrey. Tel: 07912 669457 or chris@collier-turf-care.co.uk



## ESSEX

15 members, sponsors and guests travelled down in very foggy and damp conditions to Walton Heath early last month for the South East Region Dinner and Golf Day. As the morning progressed, drizzle turned to rain and the course could take no more, unfortunately shortly after 1.30pm play was abandoned. We all enjoyed a fine meal, as always at this venue and were entertained by Walton Heath's Club Captain Michael Vaines. BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton and Guest Speaker; John Paramour. The Essex section would like to thank our Regional Administrator Clive Osgood for arranging yet another well supported day.

In the past few weeks the section committee have held two meetings the first a conference call and the second a full meeting held at Little Channels. Matters discussed were the future golf days for this season and education, the following fixtures have been arranged with one to be confirmed.

Spring Trophy, 16 May - Frinton Golf Club; Summer Trophy & BBQ plus National Qualifying, 15 August - Channels Golf Club; Autumn Trophy, (Blind Pairs) TBA; Christmas Team Event, 3 December - Orsett Golf

## Assistant Profile

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



**Name:** Simon Reardon  
**Age:** 38  
**Club:** Kingsthorpe Golf Club, Northampton  
**Position:** Assistant  
**Nickname:** Pebble Eyes

**How long have you been greenkeeping?** 17 years

**What was it about the career that attracted you?** The opportunity to be involved in a game I revere

**If you weren't a greenkeeper what do you think you'd be?** Conservationist or arborist

**Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?** Changing holes - I enjoy setting up the course for both general play and competitions

**Which task do you least enjoy doing and why?** De-stoning bunkers. Would rather get to the route of the problem than go round in circles

**What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot?** Free or heavily subsidised education, training and seminars

**Hobbies?** Golf, rugby, squash and socialising

**Favourite Band?** Crowded House

**Which team do you support (football or otherwise)?** Northampton Saints RFC

**What is your claim to fame?** Completed a cycle ride from John O'Groats to Lands End for charity