

too cold, and averages only 10 inches of rain a year, or so they say. So you can imagine my delight to get away and get a bit of sun close to the Mexican border while attending the GCSAA show.

The show proved a hit, while the rain gods gave us a few hailstones and a breezy taste of British climate from home, the downtown Gaslamp quarter filled with a cosmopolitan populace of greenkeepers and industry professionals, reveling with their international partners in the abundance of dining venues of which the area had to offer. What a great city!

Torrey Pines GC perched high on the tranquil seaside bluffs overlooking the Pacific Ocean is one of the nation's best municipals, and one I had the pleasure of playing on a very cold and windy day. The South course was home to the 2008 US Open and recognized by many as one of the greatest championships in history.

On the day, we were treated to magnificent views of the Pacific Ocean featuring deep canyons. Enough said. On 18 April, our host Mark Harvey and Co welcome you all to a Texas Scramble format at the wonderful Epsom Downs GC, which forms a natural topography for golf. It presents a course as nature intended, full of character and challenging golfers to use a full repertoire of shots.

So get your entry forms on the website and come along for a great day out.

Next month, a full and fascinating account on the travels of Gary Ogilvy's blazer, a well worn garment that can often be seen at all the golf days, on and off the course. Finally, congratulations to Sam Bethell, Greenkeeper at The Richmond GC, whose wife Jenny gave birth to their second daughter Caleigh on 16 February. Mark Day



## SUSSEX

Spring is just around the corner, honestly! Should we

be expecting another hose pipe ban? I would like to start my report with the news that Richard Webb has moved to Purley Downs Golf Club as Deputy Head Greenkeeper after more than ten years at Copthorne Golf Club where he started on work experience. Another move this month is Jon Linser who has left Seaford Head Golf Course to start his own lawn care business, Telscombe Lawn Care (TLC).

I am sure that you will all join me in wishing them both all the best in their new ventures. Pete Smith has done sterling work in securing a large number of sponsors for this year's events with local golf clubs supporting the section and he has already arranged a full programme of golf at some excellent venues. Dates as follows: Spring Competition & National Championships Qualifier Venue: The Dyke GC Date: 23rd May; Sussex Section Away Day Venue: Littlestone GC Date: 19th June; Summer Competition Venue: Piltdown GC Date: 1st August; Autumn Competition Venue: Beauport Park GC Date: 20th September; Turkey Trot Venue: Worthing GC Date: 29th November

Make sure that you get these dates in your diary. If you would like any further information, please give me a call. I would be grateful if you could contact me with any news. Thanks, Chris Humphrey. Tel: 07912 669457 or [chris@collier-turf-care.co.uk](mailto:chris@collier-turf-care.co.uk)



## ESSEX

After a delay of two months we have managed to hold our Christmas team event and AGM. Thursday 31 January dawned to a cool and windy day, overnight rain had left a few puddles around the course but few would complain. The snows of the previous week had gone and play was underway.

The Essex Golf & Country Club was the venue and our President Martin Forrester and his team had turned the golf course out in great condition. Seventeen teams of four should have ventured out on

the course but unfortunately six teams withdrew, through work and other commitments. A Texas Scramble format was played with some interesting results, as always! 1st Stoke by Nayland – 2nd Colchester Golf Club – 3rd Frinton Golf Club – Golfer of the Year, Liam Springett – Trade Golfer of the Year, Neil Peachey.

The AGM was held, before we played and was attended by a good number of section members. Outgoing Chairman Mark Stopps gave an emotional report thanking all the section for their support over his period as Chair.

The treasurer's report and competitions report were read by Tom Smith and Antony Kirwan respectively. Mark read out the Education report on behalf of Ian Wood who was unable to attend due to work commitments. Mark thanked all our sponsors for their backing during the past season.

He stated that with the help of the following, our golf and educational days had been a great success. Amenity Technology, Baileys of Norfolk, Banks Amenity Products, Bilericay Farm Services, Blade, CMW Equipment, Collier Turf Care, Ernest Doe, Everris, Farmura Environmental, GM Amenity, Irrigation and Water, Limagrain UK, Otley College, Paynes Turf, Philip Liverton Ltd, P Tuckwell (John Deere), Premier Plan, Prime Irrigation Ltd, RainBird, Rigby Taylor, Chaingreen Ltd (Sea Nymph), Tey Farm Systems, Toro (Lely) and Writtle College.

The election of Officers to the committee resulted in Ian Wood taking over as Chairman, Martin Forrester (President), Tom Smith (Treasurer), Arnold Phipps-Jones (Secretary), Antony Kirwan (Competitions), Ben Scrivener (Education) and Richard Freeman (Toro UK, Lely) (as Sponsors Representative).

Martin Forrester thanked the outgoing Chairman and committee, for all their hard work on behalf of the section. Our thanks for the hospitality and good food we enjoyed from The Essex. It was a great day, with the rain staying away, just for once!

Last month we held a First Aid training day at Upminster Golf Club. It was filled well before the closing date, which

## Assistant Profile

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

**Name:** Calvin Baldwin  
**Age:** 30  
**Club:** Gerrards Cross Golf Club  
**Position:** Assistant



**Greenkeeper Nickname:** "Biggie" at work, or "Spit" at banger racing

**How long have you been greenkeeping?** 11 years

**What was it about the career that attracted you?** Working outdoors and finishing early

**If you weren't a greenkeeper what do you think you'd be?** A car mechanic

**Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?** Hand cutting greens, they look great once they're finished

**Which task do you least enjoy doing and why?** Using the Allen Nationals, I'm always getting moaned at for going the wrong way

**What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot?** Better equipment, a decent pair of waterproofs and happy golfers that say hello

**Hobbies?** Football and Banger racing

**Favourite Band?** Don't really have a favourite band, listen to whatever is on Radio One

**Which team do you support (football or otherwise)?** The mighty Leeds United and my banger racing team "The Surrey Street Squad"

**What is your claim to fame?** I banger raced the ambulance that appeared in the film "Hot Fuzz"