

Section Notes

Please email your notes to steve.castle@bigga.co.uk by the 10th of the month

All the latest news from your Section, in your new-look notes pages...



Around the green

Scotland

Contact your Section correspondent with news, events or anything else for Around the green...



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WEST
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Events Coming Up

Central

Entries for the Spring outing need to be in by 25 April at the latest complete with payment. We will be charged for times we don't use and for all meals ordered therefore you must pay in advance. Entry forms are available at www.biggacentralsection.org.uk

Our next educational seminar will be the Bernhards workshop on reel maintenance and grinding on 14 May. Numbers are limited, please book in advance through Gordon McKie.

East

Our spring outing will be at Goswick GC on 22 April, sorry for the spelling mistake last month. We still have spaces, currently we have a field of over 20 greenkeepers.

Bernhards are hosting a Seminar on May 6 at Turnhouse GC from 4pm-6pm on the benefits of sharp mowers and setting cutting units, CPD credits available. To book your space contact Phil Butler on phil180.butler@virgin.

North

Our Spring outing will be at Moray GC on Thursday 1 May and we are fortunate to be playing at one of the best links courses in the North of Scotland.

The Section Committee have successfully organised a grinder training course through Bernhards, at Royal Aberdeen GC on 5 May at 4pm.

News

Central

21 teams entered the Pairs competition this year. Results on the website at the beginning of each month.

East

The section would like to wish Mark Campbell all the best with his new position as Course Manager at Deer Park GC. Mark has made the move from Niddry Castle.

North

Congratulations to Stewart Brown from Royal Aberdeen who has been picked to attend the FTMI 2014.

The 200 club tickets will be available soon, anyone looking for extra tickets can contact Paul Sharp at Peterculter GC. Let's hope we get a good response as it is our main source of income in the section. We are increasing the cost of an outing to £25 as we've been running outings at a loss for the past few years. Please remember to send back your 200 club money ASAP and also your entry money for Moray, it saves Paul and myself taking money on the day.

Joanne O'Neill from Newmachar GC has left our industry to work at Aberdeen Airport so best wishes on her future career, and Dougie Elrick also from Newmachar has moved to Murcar Links.

Richard Pirie from Newmachar has been unwell for a few months but has returned to work and looking forward to another busy year on the driving range.

John Geddes from McDonald GC has been in hospital having a new hip fitted so he is now on the road to recovery, keep an eye out for him as he walks round Ellon.

Thanks to Sponsors

Central

Thanks to all the trade companies and individuals who have paid to advertise on our website for the past few years. Normally we would have been asking for money from you by now. But, due to the fact the website will likely be changing and become a part of the Scottish Region website at some point in 2014, we will continue to run everyone's details and links to each company's own website for the remainder of the time the Section website exists. On behalf of the Committee and the members of the Central Section, a huge thank you to everyone who has supported us in this way.

Welcome New Members

Marc Elrick, Affiliate Member, Filpumps Ltd, Craig Barr, Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Machrihanish Dunes Golf Club, David Miller, Greenkeeper, David Drummond, Greenkeeper, Michael Dyer, Greenkeeper, Richard Riddell, Mechanic, Murray Lorimer, Assistant Greenkeeper, all Muirfield – The Hon Company of Edinburgh Golfers, Andrew Mooney, Student, SRUC (Elmwood), Mark Irvine, Student, SRUC (Elmwood), Josh Mahoney, Student, SRUC (Elmwood), Lewis Gunn, Assistant Greenkeeper, Royal Dornoch Golf Club, Colin Mowatt, Assistant Greenkeeper, Gifford Golf Club, Derick Henderson, Assistant Greenkeeper, Royal Dornoch Golf Club.

Northern

Contact your Section correspondent with news, events or anything else for Around the green...



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Events Coming Up

Cleveland

The spring tournament will be at Saltburn Golf Club on Wednesday 30 April, sponsored by Lloyds. Thanks to Alistair Whitby and Phil Walshaw! Usual format, bacon sandwich on arrival, two course meal after golf. Loads of great prizes, cost £16. Payment up front please, contact Pembo on 07791 659768 or ianpemberton60@yahoo.co.uk

North Wales

The spring tournament will be at Rhuddlan Golf Club on Wednesday 30 April. The North Wales/South Wales match will be at Royal St Davids Golf Club on 14 May, please apply to Rhys Butler if you are interested. Soon we will be needing players for the North Wales/North West match and for the cricket match at Ashley Cricket Club.

North West

The Spring Tournament will be at Stand Golf Club on Wednesday 16 April, contact David Weir on 07774 999230 to book your place.

Summer Tournament, Hurlston Hall Golf Club Tuesday 8 July.

The North West v North Wales cricket match is on Tuesday 24 July Venue TBC.

Autumn Tournament, Ringway Golf Club, Thursday 18 September.

AGM and Bert Cross Trophy, Wilmslow Golf Club, Tuesday 11 November.

Lancashire Turf Club - Monday 7 April at 7.30pm at Garstang Golf Club. David Snowdon from Agronomic Services presents 'The importance of aeration and understanding nutrition.' All welcome.

North East

22 April Scotland East Golf Day at Goswick £20.

30 April Cleveland Section Golf Day at Saltburn GC.

North east members are welcome to attend these events, contact the section secretary to book your place. We also need 10 names for the North East v Cleveland match in June at Whitley Bay GC, names to Simon.

News

Cleveland

Some exciting work has been carried out at Bishop Auckland Golf Club. If you're on with a project you want to share it let me know.

We brought in Peter Robinson from Northern Tree Trans planters to move some of our established trees from various copses on the course using his 13.5 ton spade. Over a three day period we managed to relocate 73 trees in total. However, after day two some Spruce trees had been

blown over by gale force winds. The high winds continued for weeks and we discovered more tree stakes being ripped out of the ground and more Spruce being blown over. But, three months on only three of 73 have been lost. This has defined some fairways and has improved the course. Thank you Phil Graham for sharing this with us.

Finally Happy centenary to Eaglescliffe Golf Club. If you have any news please contact me on amcgeough@aol.com

North Wales

Steve Roberts has moved from Northop Country Park and is joining Simon and Dan to work for HiTec turf, Adrian Kinsey is moving from Plassey Oaks to Northop to fill the position. Karl Parry has left Denbigh Golf Club to work with Everiss, filling his position within the club is John Ellis.

Paul Roberts has moved from Baron Hill Golf Club to St. Deiniol Golf Club. Andrew Gwilliam has celebrated 25 years as greenkeeper and Deputy Course Manager at Vale of Llangollen Golf Club. Thank to all who made our spring seminar such a great success. I apologise for my lack of output over recent months. Both my phone and computer gave up the ghost, normal service has been resumed.

Northern

Here's to Phil Rowbottom, Course Manager at Woolley Park Golf Club in his 'Tractor Aid' mission. Fantastic gesture.

Congratulations to Darrell Crawley in taking on the top job at Bradford Moor Golf Club. Martin Pottage also celebrates 25 years service there, well done big man!

North West

We welcome Ben Allen to the section. Ben was appointed Head Greenkeeper of Poulton Park Golf Club in February.

February saw two great meetings taking place. First was at Garstang Golf Club with the lads from the Flyde Coast section. The other was held at Dunham Forest Golf Club with the North West committee. Both meetings were very encouraging. Chris Sheehan would like to thank all that attended and to both Sandra Raper and Jim Croxton for their enthusiasm, motivation and expertise.

We've launched the BIGGA North West section Facebook page, spread the word and like our page, find out about upcoming events and daily goings on at golf clubs all around the North West. If you wish to share news please contact me or any member of the North West section committee. My details: e.ainsworth@ymail.com, edward.ainsworth.9@facebook.com, or 07925 037632

Results

North East

Spring comp at South Shields Golf Club, many thanks to Phil Hargraves and his team as the course was in superb condition. Lowest Gross - Jack Friar 74. Stableford Winners: 1 Ben Potter 39pts, 2 Russell Black 36, 3 on c/b Richard Hood 35, 4 on c/b Paul Walton 35, 5 James Richardson 34.

Thanks to Sponsors

Northern

We are superbly well looked after every year by these guys and are truly grateful: Everiss, Rigby Taylor, FMW Distinct Bolton, Abby Mowers, Bob Wild Grass Machinery and Mel Guy & Bathgate Sands.

Welcome New Members

Garry Worrall, Affiliate Member, PitchWorks, Will Hibbs, Greenkeeper, St Annes Old Links Golf Club, Joe Gibson, Assistant Greenkeeper, Consett & District Golf Club.

Midland

Contact your Section correspondent with news, events or anything else for Around the green...



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EAST MIDLAND
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Events Coming Up

Midland

Via email all will have received an entry form for the postponed 2013 "TORO BIGGA Midland Regional Team Challenge", to be played at Trentham GC on 7 May. Entries to Sandra Raper on 07866 366966.

The Spring golf event is to be held at Olton Golf Club 14 May with a start time of 12.30, closing date 6 May. Please ring Rhys on 07774 164173, or go to our new website to download an entry form: www.biggamidlandsection.co.uk. Also don't forget that the very successful long running Everris Doubles competition draw will also be held at Olton, please use either of the prior channels mentioned to register.

Wish I could tell you a story, but I've been banned, please let me know what you think, good or bad: sean.mcdade@homecall.co.uk

BB&O

Comps: 14 May - The Oxford Golf Club - www.oxfordgolfclub.net
23 July - Sonning Golf Club - www.sonning-golf-club.co.uk
11 Sept - Harewood Downs - www.hdgc.co.uk
3 Dec - Frilford Heath GC - www.frilfordheath.co.uk

We are also going to run a Order Of Merit this year over the first 3 events.

Rigby Taylor Pairs Competition is running again. For an entry form contact Gareth Acteson g.acteson@rigbytaylor.com

Mid Anglia

We are still finalising golf day venues for 2014 so will get the information out as soon as all are confirmed.

News

BB&O

Course Manager Alec MacIndoe has moved from Newbury and Crookham to West Surrey G.C. Keep up to date with what's happening at www.bbogreenkeepers.co.uk

Thanks to Sponsors

Midland

What a fool I've been (nothing new there then I here you cry). By the time I got round to compiling March's notes it would have been far too late for publication. My apologies to last month's calendar sponsor "Redteck" (Toro) as headed by Graham Hall. For your service needs contact Graham on 07702 154987, and for parts Kevin Blake on 01676

523287. Their service is professional, friendly, and they can be relied upon to go the extra mile when needs must.

This month's kind sponsor of our calendar is "Sherriff Amenity" as represented by our old friend, and long term supporter of our section, Nigel Tyler. Please consider them for your pesticide, fertiliser, wetting agent etc needs. Tel 07989 548058, or office 01638 721 888. Website: www.sherriffamenity.com

Mid Anglia

A massive thanks goes to our Sponsors of the section for 2014. They are: Tuckwells Machinery, Vassgro Amenity, ALS, Headland Amenity, Avoncrop Amenity, Farmura, Amtech Amenity, Rigby Taylor Ltd.

We thank you for your continued support with funds towards the Mid Anglia Section. Banks Amenity also sponsor our Golfer of the Year Trophy again this year so once again your support means a lot and please consider these suppliers for your requirements the coming months and beyond into 2014.

If you're interested in sponsoring Mid Anglia Section in 2014 please contact a committee member for details.

Welcome New Members

Luke Hall, Greenkeeper, Ashridge Golf Club, Liam Irons, Greenkeeper, Mid Herts Golf Club, James Evans, Head Greenkeeper, Little Lakes Golf Club, Ashton Hall, Assistant Greenkeeper, Redditch Golf Club, Simon Harding, Assistant Greenkeeper, Calcot Park Golf Club, Joseph Burgoyne, Assistant Greenkeeper, Calcot Park Golf Club, Warren Teszner Assistant Greenkeeper, Trentham Golf Ltd.

Recruitment

Overseas opportunities in the Netherlands

April - October

An exciting opportunity has arisen for green keepers to work in our experienced and successful team. Applicants must be able to undertake all basic green keeping tasks and be qualified to NVQ Level 2 or similar.

Minimum 3 years experience

Experience on all mowers hand held or ride on is essential for this position.

The Club is maintained to a high standard and works on the course cover a wide range of duties so this position requires an individual who can apply their skills to all aspects of course maintenance. You must be a good team worker, highly motivated, be able to make decisions and able to operate a full range of equipment associated with the post.

Accommodation is found and paid for assistance with travel is available.

A full UK Driving License is required and own transport for these positions.

UK permanent address and National Insurance number

Must have a willingness to work away from home

Contact Denise Haines on 01612331564 or 07980816024 email denise.haines@roevin.co.uk

South East

Contact your Section correspondent with news, events or anything else for Around the green...



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Events coming up

Surrey

- 1 May - Texas Scramble Epsom Downs GC.
- 6 June - Spring Tournament The Drift GC Qualifier for National Tournament held at Liphook GC 6-7 October.
- 27 June - Cresta Cup West Surrey GC.
- 17 September - Hankley Common GC Section v Trade.
- 30 September - Surrey Bowl Final at Foxhills G&CC.
- 4 November - England v Scotland Hankley Common GC.
- 19 November - Match v Secretaries at The Berkshire GC.
- 19 December - Guildford GC Turkey Trot.

BIGGA ties as part of the dress code will be introduced this year, failure to wear the association colours will result in a £2 fine that will be donated to the BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund.

A social evening has been organised at The Cricketers Pub with teams of 6 competing in a quiz night at a cost of £5 including food.

A visit to Mercedes World has also been organised, check the web for dates and details.

London

The Spring Tournament and National qualifier is on Monday 12 May at Northwood so apply to Lee Cox l.cox15@btinternet.com or text 07931 927346 to enter.

Also check the up to date London section website for course walks etc.

News

Surrey

Clive Osgood has made an excellent recovery from his hip operation, wishing him the very best. Ron Christie will assume the role of handicap secretary and all bandits will be shot.

Congratulations to Neil Davey, Worplesdon GC and Tony Bartram Richmond GC, chosen to represent the Surrey section on the BIGGA Open Support Team.

Also congratulations to Graeme Roberts Tandridge GC, Peter Moore and Derrick Johnstone from Wentworth and Kevin Glazier from Royal Mid Surrey GC who have been selected to be delegates on the FTMI. Finally, congrats to Michael Sawicki from Dulwich & Sydenham Hill GC who is one of the mentors on the FTMI.

Kent

Thanks to Matt Corbould and Amenity Technology for organising a really good seminar hosted by Redlibbits Golf Club.

David Snowden, who is a very accomplished and knowledgeable speaker, gave a very interesting insight into the world of microbiology and the world beneath the turf. Many thanks to all for a most informative day.

A fantastic day was had by pretty much the whole of the South East greenkeeping crop at the magnificent heathland setting of Walton Heath.

Great weather, great golf and even better company ensured this annual event remains a must-do fixture in the calendar.

Kent section were extremely privileged and honoured to be given the amazing opportunity to play the best course in the south of England bar none.

We gratefully accepted the offer made by Royal St. George's to grace their links on a day where I think we were all struck by just being in such auspicious surroundings that just oozed class, tradition and perfection.

The absolute cream of our golfing fraternity were fortunate to have a dry day where the north wind blew a fair chill across the beautifully presented course.

The sense of occasion was lost on no-one and we were all eager to take on the challenge of Paul Larsen's incredible course.

We cannot thank Paul, Adam and the rest of the greenkeeping team and, indeed, the secretary and clubhouse staff enough for their very hospitable welcome.

It really was the most memorable day in my greenkeeping career.

Well done to so many who scored well too. Royal St. Georges have offered us the opportunity to bring some of our teams along for a look round the sheds and a course walk later in the year to give us an insight into what goes into making this fine venue such an incredible place.

I shall keep you informed. Results in the Results section.

London

A big thank you all that took part in organising the education day at Oaklands [over 170 delegates were there] and to those speakers that made it a great day.

Also thank you for the afternoon seminars from Simon Banks and Henry Bechelet.

Results

Surrey

Mike Buck from Rushmere GC posted a 73 gross to lift the trophy at the SE Annual Golf Day at Walton Heath GC.

Kent

Event at Royal St George's
1 Darren Burton, 2 Lee Austin. Trade Prize - Neil Pullen

Welcome New Members

Paul Doran, Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Grims Dyke Golf Club, Zoe Chisnall, Greenkeeper, Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club, Eric Oliver, Greenkeeper, Betchworth Park Golf Club, David Whitlock, Greenkeeper, Crowborough Beacon Golf Club, Tom Masson-Smyth, Greenkeeper, Sundridge Park Golf Club, Oliver Jones, Greenkeeper, Stowmarket Golf Club, Craig Steed, Assistant Greenkeeper, Colne Valley Golf Club, Matthew Kent, Assistant Greenkeeper, Puttenham Golf Club.

South West & South Wales

Contact your Section correspondent with news, events or anything else for Around the Green...



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SOUTH WALES
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Events Coming Up

South Wales

Two team event coming up v the north at Royal St David's. Date and time TBC. Please contact the match captain Big D if interested.

Match at Chippenham GC on 29 May, ten man team start time TBC.

South Coast

On Tuesday 15 April we have our spring competition at Highcliffe Castle. £20 entry and this includes bacon roll on arrival and an evening meal, please contact Kevan Glass for more details.

South West

This year's event calendar is coming together nicely with most venues and dates confirmed. Here are the early events so that everyone can get the dates into their diaries:

24 April: Am/Am at Enmore Park Golf Club

29 May: Inter-Section Match at Chippenham Golf Club (South West, South Wales & Secretaries)

19 June: Summer Tournament at Farrington Golf Club

News

South Wales

Congratulations to Ceri Richards on joining Indigrow UK as technical sales manager after nine years at Avoncrop Amenity. His shoes have been filled by Hugh Morgan, good luck to you both.

Whitchurch Golf Club are celebrating their centenary, hope Mike Stokes and his team have a great year, also Royal Porthcawl are hosting the Seniors Open Championship between 24-27 July.

Welcome to Iain Grant from Brynhill Hill GC who has joined the committee. This year we have a good line up of golf events; a roadshow, course walks if you are not interested in playing golf plus a stadium visit please attend as many as possible.

South Coast

Tony Gadd and Phil Wentworth are both stepping down from their roles as chairman and vice chairman but are staying on the committee. We would like to take this

opportunity to thank both Tony and Phil for their years of hard work and service to the south coast section. Robert Hogarth is stepping in as chairman until the AGM in the autumn. Jaime Acton is taking over the role as vice chairman until the AGM also.

The seminar that was held at Milton Abbey School was a very enjoyable day for all, we would like to thank the School for their hospitality and Joe Cooper for helping organising the day.

We would also like to thank all the speakers for making the day so enjoyable. If anyone has any news they want to be included in the magazine then please email me at the following address al.magee77@googlemail.com

South West

Main news - the sun came out! Fixture cards for the season's upcoming events have been finalised and will be with all section members shortly.

Please keep an eye out for these. If anyone on your team is not receiving Section emails please ask them to contact me to supply their addresses (j.goodchild@bowood.org).

Devon & Cornwall

Wednesday 12 February the Toro Cup was played, seven golfers braved the strong winds and sleet at St Austell Golf Club. Thank you to everyone who supported the section which goes from strength to strength even in such bad weather. The next section meeting will be held at Wrangaton Golf Club which will include the section championship. Results in Results section.

Results

Devon & Cornwall

Toro Cup, stableford format. 3rd Jim Sheehan, 2nd Andrew Prouse and first place went to Gordon Tamblin who is a previous winner of the Toro Cup.

Thanks to Sponsors

South Coast

Thanks to Banks Amenity, Huxley Golf and Farmura for sponsoring the seminar at Milton Abbey.

South West

Many thanks to our South West Section 2014 Patrons: Greensman, Irritech, Headland Amenity, Countrywide, Farmura, Ecosolve, T H White and Sportsmark for their invaluable support.

Welcome New Members

Nicholas Rawlings, Affiliate, Complete Weed Control (South Wales) Ltd, Peter Endacott, Affiliate, Mason Kings, Daniel Mackenzie, Greenkeeper, Oake Manor Golf Club, Lewis Watts, Greenkeeper, Padbrook Park Golf Club, Kelvin Brown, Greenkeeper, Crowborough Beacon Golf Club, Daniel Moore, Assistant Greenkeeper Naunton Downs Golf Club.

Welcome New Members (N.Ireland)

N Ireland: Mark Crean, Kieron Delaney, Colm Daly, Owen Fleming, Niall Kelleher, Sean Lordan - all Students at Colaiste Stiofain Naofa.

Welcome New Members (Rep. of Ireland)

Rep of Ireland: Aaron Abernethy, Paddy Breen, Sean Breen, Aiden Brennan, John Catterson, Paul Duncan, Gerald Dowd, Lorcan McMenamin, Paul McGuire, Patrick McKenna, Brian O'Donovan, Gerald O'Gorman, Andrew Power, Gabriele Pische, Jeremy Ryan, Cathal Sexton - all Students at Colaiste Stiofain Naofa.