

Assessment and many others. If you wish to book a course or have any queries ring Sami Collins, Education and Training Administrator, on 01347 833 800.

After the Summer Tournament at Childwall GC we have the Autumn Tournament at Prestbury GC on September 1. All applications to Bert Cross, Harthill Lodge, Harthill Rd, Liverpool, L18 3HU. Including a cheque for £20 to BIGGA N/W Section.

Any news or queries please contact me on 0151 724 5412 or 07761 583387.

Bert Cross

Northern

Could I start this month's report with a reminder that this year's Invitation Day is being held at the York Golf Club on August 10. If you haven't got your name down then please get in touch as soon as possible.

June 10 was the date of this year's President's Day and the event was held at the excellent Scarthingwell Golf Club. A huge thank you to John Waite and his team for producing such a superb course, to the catering staff for the fabulous meal, and to all the officials of Scarthingwell for their hospitality. Thank you also to Richard Pull and CSC Amenity for their sponsorship of the event.

The results were: Bill Mountain Trophy. D. Collins. Division One 1. J. Waite; 2. A. Baxter; 3. A. Slingsby. Division Two. 1. J. Watts; 2. A. Speight; 3. F. Stewart. Division Three. 1. C. Garnett; 2. D. Cockburn; 3. Joe Baxter. Trade. 1. M. Guy; 2. I. Collett.

I promise I shall not go into detail about holing my second shot from 140 yards for an eagle 2. I'm sure I've bored most of you enough by now!

In next month's report I will bring you the result of the second annual Northern Section vs. Sheffield Section, which is being held at Hillsborough Golf Club.

If you have any news to share then please do get in touch. Tel: 01274 638366, Mobile: 07739 319060.

Adam Speight

Sheffield

On June 29 we held our Summer Competition, which was hosted by Renishaw Park Golf Club. It was an overcast day but was warm. Renishaw was in fantastic condition, well done to Mark Nelson and his staff for the excellent job they are doing. Our thanks go to Renishaw for giving us the courtesies of their course.

Our main sponsors for the day was Mansfield Sand, who provided an excellent prize table once again. Our thanks go to Dave Smith and Russ Latham from Mansfield Sand. Thanks to all the other trade members who provided prizes. Thanks also to the catering staff for providing an excellent meal.

The Captain of Renishaw, John Crabtree, presented the prizes. On the day there was some fantastic golf played and there was one person who had an amazing day, becoming the winner of our Summer Competition with a Nett score of 62 playing of 15, which also included a hole-in-one!

This golfer was Ken Ashton, well done. I think it was one of those days when everything went right for you, great golf Ken. Ps. we will wait until the autumn for our drinks for your hole-in-one! See you at Hollinwell. The winner of our Gross prize for the day was Simon Dye, with a Gross 71. Well done Simon.

1. Ken Ashton, Nett 62; 2. Simon Dye, 66 (Best Gross 71); 3. Kevin Clarke, 67; 4. Alan Samson, 69 (BB9); 5. Andy Unwin, 69. Guest. Stuart Clayton.

While still on golf competitions, in future any late entry forms received will not be accepted and no telephone entries either or payment on the day will not be acceptable as we give everyone plenty of time to enter.

Our seminar, which is going to be held on October 24, is all on schedule and details will be in next month's magazine.

Kevin Locke, a former greenkeeper at Coxmoor Golf Club, has just been appointed Assistant Professional at Gainsborough Golf Club. Well done Kevin.

On a sadder note our condolences go to our former president, Ken Arnold, whose wife died recently.

Any news feel free to contact me on 07793111845.

John Lax

MIDLAND REGION

East Midland

Congratulations this month should go to Mark Bindley and his girlfriend, Julie, on the birth of their daughter, named after Mark's favourite football team, Chelsea. This may well see the end to Mark's cricketing days, as other duties will now be required. Also congratulations should go to Chris Bates, of Scraftoft GC, who has now moved on to the landscape contracting side of our profession.

Onto a personnel note, I would like to thank the Captain of Kirby Muxloe Golf Club, Paul Baxter, who kindly invited me onto his Captain's away day at Kings Norton GC, on June 3. The course was in excellent condition, which must have played a major part in my score of 39 points, which was just good enough to win the day. Thanks Captain and I hope you enjoy a great year in office.

I would now like to call on the help of every member of our Section, please send me any information you can if you what to read this article every month, as so far I have to rely on just a few sources.

This year's AGM will take place at Norwood Park GC on November 2, with Chamwood Forest GC hosting our Christmas Tournament on December 15. If you wish to attend either of these events please contact me for an entry form. Please also remember to ensure that your entry slip and payment is made to me before the closing date as meals and start times need to be booked, there are still a few late entries coming in for our tournaments.

At the Neil Thomas Memorial Golf Day on June 27 Kevin Kinzer won the Nearest the Pin prize, and the East Midland Section team was represented by Adi Porter, Stuart Raybould, Nigel Colley and Andy Marsh, results will appear when available.

Antony Bindley

Midland

As I sit here trying to find something obscure, yet relevant, as a topic to rely to you my friends, I find myself utilising Gregorian Chant as a stimulus. After exploration of the origins of such I find that such was scored back in 600 Anno Domini. So how on earth does such relate to greenkeeping?

Darwin noted that Amazonian Indians were playing a form of golf in 1834. More recently, Graeme Patrick has just retired from the Course Manager's post at Enville. So what can we deduce from such? To understand the future we must firstly have learnt the lessons and knowledge of the past. It is with great respect and thanks to Graeme for



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his past efforts as both a teacher of many a fine greenkeeper, and for his work as a Section Committee member that the Section wishes you all the best in your well earned retirement.

On a further note regarding Enville, well done to John Wood on gaining the Course Manager's position there. A further movement being that of Craig Tidmarsh, to The Gloucester GC. Wishing you every success in your new position as Head Greenkeeper Craig.

With the above in mind and considering that Education is more readily available to all than it has ever been, our Section is actively promoting Skills Training this autumn/winter. Gay Hill Golf Club has kindly offered their facilities for training purposes, and we hope to be running a selection of courses, dependent upon demand of course. A Manual Handling course will be run on September 26. Morning or afternoon times will be available for the three hour course, with certificates awarded upon completion. The cost being £40 per delegate.

A one day Compact Tractor course will be run by Lantra. The course is aimed at experienced operators and will cover all aspects, including safe mounting of attachments to 3 point linkage and the safe use of PTO's. At a cost of £160 can golf clubs really afford not to send their operators? Other courses ranging from Chainsaw use to ATV Driving are in the pipeline and we will be contacting you in the near future with further details. We shall also be offering you the opportunity to become A1 & L12 Assessors free of charge via funding through the European Social Fund.

Please remember that these courses can only be run with sufficient demand, it is up to us as members to take advantage of these great

opportunities to further our career development and strengthen the all important Health & Safety of the Greenkeeping Industry as a whole.

Application forms and further information can be obtained directly from the GTC or from Paul at Gay Hill GC on 07880 734 197 or email, paul@ghgc.org.uk. Please let Paul know of any other courses that you may find of interest. Our thanks to Paul for his very kind efforts, and to Gay Hill for their support and use of its fine facilities.

Due to a double booking at Shirley GC our Autumn Tournament has had to be rescheduled for the week prior. The new date is Tuesday September 13. Please don't forget that the AGM is also to be held there on the same rescheduled date. You shall be receiving a new entry form in due course.

And finally, two well dones. Firstly to D. McLaren, of Shirley GC, for being awarded Apprentice Greenkeeper of the Year at Warwickshire College. Just need to put such into practice now Darren, I'm sure you already are mate. Secondly, to Ed Stant who is to be married to Tracy on August 25. I note that the vodka bar in Walsall has just gone into liquidation.

Until next month.
 Sean McDade

East of England

What is the common denominator here? Me, BIGGA Golf Days, rain. It's starting to get personal now. So, if your course is a bit dry, give me a phone and I will come for a knock.

July's Golf Day, as you all know, was at Burghley Park to help Dave

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celebrate his 25th year as Course Manager (More on Dave's Celebration can be found in the News section of the magazine). Not having to drive I did just that to the best of my ability! This course was in super condition and the food was first class. Considering Dave was two men short for a week prior to this, it was also a credit to his staff. Well done lads.

Results are as follows: 1. T. Shinkins, 41pts; 2. D. Coupland; 3. Corby; 4. J. Firman; 5. B. Robinson. Trade Prize S. Clayton, Midlube. Our thanks go to the sponsors, Burdens, who did us proud.

The subject of Mexican Bandit has been mentioned once or twice this year, but I don't think we will hear that again for a while - will we Mr Shinkins? I wouldn't like to say how much you are going to be cut by, but Bruce has worn out his calculator.

Finally, the British and Irish Lions, or should I say pussycats, demonstrate just what happens when there are no Scots in the team.

Allan Walker

SOUTH EAST

Kent

Our fully revitalised Section had a fantastic day recently in the glorious surroundings of Broome Park Golf Club. This was a first time visit for many of us and we were extremely impressed with the beautiful clubhouse and golf course.

I was fortunate enough to be playing with Chris Latham, the host Course Manager, who used his many years of experience at Broome Park to hit exactly the right branch of a tree to hit the green on the Nearest the Pin hole. Very many thanks to Chris, Shane and the rest of the greenkeeping team and the entire clubhouse staff on a superb and very memorable day out.

Full results were: 1. John Donnelly; 2. Adam Marrable; 3. Stuart Butler; Nearest Pin. Andrew Pearson. Longest Drive. Andrew Guy. Trade Prize. Gary Tait.

On the day we managed to gather plenty of interest in forming a Kent golfing team from the assembled numbers and we hope very soon to be taking on other home counties. Many thanks to all of you who put your names forward for consideration. It was a massive boost for us on the Committee to know that so many of you want to see our Section go from strength to strength. If anyone else is interested in playing a part in the team matches you can put your names forward at any of our regular Section days.

The next event is at Southern Valley Golf Club on September 29. Remember, we are always keen to see as many of you as possible attend these events. Course Managers, Assistants and Trainees of all golfing abilities are very welcome.

If anyone has any news for me for this column or would like any more details on events please contact me grassyars@hotmail.com.

Rob Holland

East Anglia

This report could be like waiting for a bus. You wait all day, or in this case for months, then two come long at once. This is the Weston Park report following hot on the heels of the Diss report!

Immaculate. That's how I would describe Weston Park and all credit must go to Mick Bamey and his team for all their efforts. Well done. I was particularly impressed by some of those trees, I must admit I made contact



Jane Jones
SOUTH WEST AND WALES
Tel: 01454 270850

with several but no harm done I trust. To me, golf is all about enjoying what's around you and I saw a lot of what was around me as my score indicated. I digress, here come the dedicated golfers:

0-10 Section. 1. Peter Howard, 35pts; 2. Rob Boyce, 35pts; 3. Mick Buck, 33pts. 11-19 Section. 1. Mark Broughton, 34pts; 2. David Childs, 33pts; 3. Asa Barber, 33pts - his brother's name is Ali. 20-28 Section - Salt of the Earth Golfers. 1. Steve Crabb, 32pts (Cromer: sorry, Sheringham); 2. Steve Davidson, 32pts; 3. Wayne Thrower, 31 pts (Dad's name Percy). Nearest the Pin. Stuart Patterson, 2nd hole, and Asa Barber, 16th hole. Longest Drive. Steve Dickinson, 9th hole, and Michael Buck, 14th hole.

Nearly forgot Trade and Guest or G&T's. Yes, G&T's it definitely is. 1. Nick Brown, 37pts; 2. Stuart Patterson, 36pts.

The loo seat was won by Ian but he should have got a medal for keeping the show on the road following a very stressful time for him. Well done mate.

The prizes were presented by Vice President, Max Tinkler, who incidentally is the Godfather to all us bikers. It was good to see him again. The main sponsor for the day was Ben Burgess, who did a splendid job. Other prizes were donated by Aitkins, Amenity Wise, Atherton & Ellis, ATT, Bartram Mowers, CMW, Collier, Turf Care, Consultant Clarkson, Headland Turf, Prime Irrigation, Rigby Taylor, Sherriff, Sisis, Tacit; Textron, Tomlinson Groundcare, Toro and Vitax. Thank you once again Weston Park for a really great day.

I must mention Steve Curtis. He is a dad with new born son, Ben. Congratulations to all.

Mick Lathrope

SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES

South West

I'm just recovering from the Open Championship Regional Qualifying round held here at Minchinhampton on July 4. The low score was 66, everyone who shot level par 71 got into a playoff for the last couple of qualifying slots. The Cherington Course, which is only 6450 yards held its own quite well with greens putting at a very reasonable 9.5, and plenty of challenging rough. All in all a very good day, although not helped much by the weather, which was chilly and damp.

I'm now off to the Dordogne with the family for 10 days to recover - even that's to stay at a Golf & Country Club, so no escape even on holiday. If anything untoward should happen on my holiday you'll be the first to know.

Grateful thanks from the Section Committee to Matt Maryon, who must be one of the busiest guys in greenkeeping at the moment, for showing a party of Section members around his new site at the Woodlands Club. Woodlands is situated near the M4/M5 junction and is on what may be one of the largest landfill sites in the Western World. There was a constant stream of lorries in and out tipping, each one with 20 tonnes of rubble in the back, and £25 cash stamped on its ticket.

Multiply that by one every five minutes for the entire day, six days a week, 52 weeks a year, and you get some obscenely large figure, which would probably pay for 10 golf courses. It is only as you near the edge of the site and realise that you are standing on a golf course sized piece of land, 40 feet above the original ground level that you get a full sense of the scale of tipping.

The club is expanding from the existing 18 to 36 holes and the whole operation is controlled by Matt, in addition to managing the separate Woodspring site also. Several machines were shaping lakes, moving rubble into bases for the greens, putting in drainage and laying stone carpets and rootzone. One digger in particular had a swivel and tilt bucket, which looked as if it were capable of tying itself in a reef knot, so skilled was the driver. Matt is using Bathgate rootzone, supplied through Countrywide Farmers, for the greens and tees. Opening is scheduled for Summer 2007 and matters looked well in hand.

Do please support our Race Night at Bath on August 26. To book a ticket, which will cost £10 entry, please send a cheque together with your details, partners are welcome, to Jon Jarvis at Lansdown Golf Club - he'll do the rest.

Finally, after another successful Open at St Andrews, I heard a lovely story about the Old Course. All the bunkers are named - Hell bunker, Shell bunker, the Road bunker and so on. There is also a small bunker, partially hidden by gorse on a reverse slope somewhere on the 13th hole, which is called locally "The Admiral's Letterbox". It is named after Rear Admiral Sir Somebody Something-or-other, who came to grief there in a quite spectacular fashion.

Apparently the Admiral was out playing with his pals when an attractive female jogger, dressed in bright red, appeared on the course. The Admiral licked his lips lasciviously, and remarked to his pals: "I wouldn't mind posting a letter in that particular box". With that, he disappeared completely from sight. When his pals looked round, there was the Admiral upside down in the little bunker with trolley and clubs scattered on top of him, completely pinned to the spot.

Have a good summer, relaxing holidays, and keep the news coming in.
Paul Worster

South Coast

It seems incredible that we are in August already, how time flies! Our much anticipated annual match against the Wessex Secretaries was played at Weymouth Golf Club and the day was sponsored, as usual, by Course Care. Having lost the fixture last year revenge was in our minds but the Secretaries' Captain, Eddie Robertson, had another result in his mind.

The matches were played in very good spirit and the standard of golf was excellent on a very testing afternoon. The Secretaries managed to edge the match 3-2 and we will be looking to stop our losing streak next year. Many thanks to Weymouth Golf Club for their hospitality, to the greenkeeping team for all their hard work in preparing the course for us, it was superb! Last but by no means least to Course Care for their continued sponsorship of the match. Dave Mears and Paul Dyter were on hand to support the Section team but we fell short again this year, it won't happen again next year.

Rushmore Golf Club was the next port of call for our Summer Invitation Tournament, sponsored by Tacit. Most of the field had never played the course before and were treated to a real gem, with some stunning views across the surrounding countryside. Mr Starter, Joe Crawley, was there to make sure we all teed off on time, thanks Joe.

The course was in excellent condition and scoring reflected this, winners on the day were: 1. Alex McCombie & Stewart Gibson, 44pts; 2. Andy McDonald & Alan Symonsons, 43pts; 3. Chris Bitten & John Clarkson, 41pts.

Many thanks to Rushmore Golf Club for their superb hospitality. To Andy and his hardworking greenkeeping team, many thanks for preparing the

course so beautifully. Also thanks to the catering staff for the superb meal. A huge thank you for our sponsors, Tacit, without such generosity we could not have such wonderful golf days and last but by no means least to our tournament organiser, Chris Sturgess, he does a great job for us!

Phil Wentworth has asked me to request that all the Jim Fry pair's matches are played promptly so that the final can be played earlier this year, so your cooperation is much appreciated.

Don't forget to contact me if you have any news that you would like include in the Around the Green section. My contact details are: Tel: 01202 661106, Mobile: 07966 386232, or email me at a.mccombie@ntlworld.com.

Until next time.

Alex McCombie

Devon & Cornwall

I seem to remember a song from the old days that started with the words, "The rain in Spain, falls mainly on the plain". Not any longer, with recent weather that we have received in the past couple of weeks I am beginning to think that, "The rain falls mainly in Devon and Cornwall".

Recently in North Cornwall 75mm of rain fell in four hours, causing havoc to many a golf course with the result of many a bunker being washed out. For the second time in the past few months greens were damaged and on one course the putting green collapsed, leaving a large hole. If that's not enough, the intense thunder and lightning caused chaos with computers and irrigation.

Devon did not escape either, with more bunkers washed out and paths washed away. Our thoughts go to all the greenkeepers that have had to cope with the extra workload, who forecast that we were going to have a drought this year?

In spite of the recent poor weather conditions, we were very lucky with our mid summer meeting held at Launceston Golf Club, on June 15. The event was kindly sponsored by Symbio. Many thanks Martin. Unfortunately Martin could not attend to present the winners with their prizes because of a bad back, however Neil Carter, the Symbio Technical Representative for the area, was on hand to take over. Although a very busy time of the year for all the members 35 took part.

The course was in excellent condition, thanks to Graeme Gallimore, the Head Greenkeeper, and his team and a special thanks to Mike, in charge of the catering department, who produced a first class dinner.

The winners of the Symbio Competition were as follows: 1. Gavin Moore, Launceston Golf Club, 38pts; 2. Eric Barber, Retired, 37pts; 3. Craig Martin, Falmouth Golf Club, 33pts.

Last but not least, congratulations go to James Collins, Head Greenkeeper at the Falmouth Golf Club, who managed a hole in one on the 4th hole at the Clowance Golf Club in Cornwall. Well done James, and you thought you were going to keep that quiet, no chance, thanks for the tip off Keith.

That's all for now until next month.

Donovan O Hunt

Events Coordinator

NORTHERN IRELAND

Our National Championship Section Qualifying Competition will take place at Royal Co Down on Tuesday August 9, with a 3pm tee time. Two competitors will win a trip over to the BIGGA National Championship. The venue this year will be on Lee Westwood's home course, Worksop GC, and Sherwood Forest GC on October 3 & 4.

I would also like to remind members that Terry Crawford's Charity Golf Day, at Clandeboye GC, will again be played on the first Friday in August. Numbers will again be limited to 120 players.

Our third competition this year was played at Allen Park GC outside Antrim Town. A big thanks to our sponsors on the day, Kyle Irwin, from Turf Care Solutions, and Jim Holden, from parent company Irish Turf Care. Jim travelled all the way up from Country Wexford to attend on the day. The very generous prizes they provided were greatly appreciated by the competitors. I would like to thank all the members who made the effort and attended on the day.

Well needless to say, my John Letters Collector's piece driver let me down again, so it will have to return to the attic. We have recently opened our new bunkers, including fairway bunkers to catch big hitters. I proceeded to watch Noel Crawford drive off from the 1st tee and hit the new bunkers. That just left him a short wedge to the opening green, the 1st hole measures 445 yards. The winner of the competition was Noel's nephew, Gary Crawford, who accumulated an excellent 41pts.

Results were: 1. Gary Crawford, RCD, 41pts; 2. Eamonn Crawford, RCD, 36pts; 3. Aaron Fulton, Lisburn GC, 34pts. Visitors' Prize. Martin Kennedy, RCD, 39pts. Longest Drive. Justin Waddell, Fortwilliam GC. Nearest the Pin. Ken Henderson, Allen Park GC.

Once again I would like to thank our sponsors, Kyle and Jim from Turf Care Solutions and Irish Turf Care, for making the day a success.

One new member this month. Welcome to James Harkness, Malone GC.

Until next month.

Ken Henderson

SECTION NOTES INFORMATION

In order to improve the sending and receiving of Section Notes, where possible can all future notes be emailed to gareth@bigga.co.uk by no later than the 5th of the month prior to publication please.

You will receive an email back to confirm receipt of your notes.

If you do not receive this confirmation please get in touch with BIGGA Headquarters.

In the Shed ANSWERS

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SUDOKU

5	4	1	2	9	8	6	7	3
8	7	9	4	6	3	5	1	2
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2	5	4	7	8	6	3	9	1
4	2	5	6	7	1	8	3	9
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ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLE ON THE MEMBERSHIP PAGE

3	6	9	7	2	5	1	8	4
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The answer will be hidden somewhere in the Buyers' Guide section.

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Badgers typically cause damage when digging for food, when they can even roll turf back like a carpet to gain food. They can weight up to 16kg and live in social groups of up to six animals. Setts are continually dug during the year, but are more frequently noticeable at the peak times of February-April and August.

Management is complex as the animal and their setts are protected by law. It is best to gain expert advice, although electric fencing can be effective to protect parts of the course. However, it is illegal to position these fences around a sett.

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