

3. C. Roberts; 4. A. Jones; 5. R. Hayhurst; Best Trade. A. Cornes; Nearest the Pin. P. Woodham; Longest Drive. A. Jones.

Our greatest of thanks to the main sponsor of the day, the old wag J. Mullins/Vitax. Also thanks to N. Tyler/Alpha Amenity and to R. Page/Turner Ground Care Machinery, for the drinks and chocolate bars around the course. Without question, our greatest of thanks to Bridgenorth for affording us such a wonderful and generous day.

On the topic of golf, this year's Scotts Doubles event, was drawn at Bridgenorth. Please remember that the home team is to contact the away team giving three different dates throughout three separate weeks.

To simplify and reduce costs to both the Section and yourselves regarding postage to and fro, start times or who you are playing in a golf event we/G. Cunningham have set up an email shot list. Anyone wishing to be included on such must email Gary your email address to: Cunningham.su@btinternet.com. Please remember that your address will only be used for the above and never to action commercial promotions.

Our next event is to be held at Oxley Park, July 5 at 2pm. Please get your entries in to Gary as soon as possible.

It gives me great pleasure to be able to welcome five new members to our Section: M. Morris; D. J. Fisher; A. J. Thurman; S. Scott and J. Moverley.

I look forward to reporting on the exploits of K. Booth's charity walk, next month.

## Education - IOSH Managing Safely

This training is been offered to BIGGA members by New Grange Training. The Midlands Section has secured a reduced price. Details have outlined as follows:

Commences Thursday, June 15, and then on June 29, Thursday, July 6 and final day on Thursday, July 13, at Becketts Conference Centre just off J3 of the M42. If these dates do not suit, we intend to run the course during October, at Gay Hill GC. Cost is £325 including; IOSH fees, IOSH manual/notes, lunch and refreshments. (Normally £495 + £30 IOSH Fees). All prices are excluding VAT.

This internationally recognised practical health and safety qualification, is aimed at Managers, Team Leaders, Supervisors, HR/Personnel/Office/Quality Managers from any type of organisation who have to be aware of health and safety responsibilities. The courses aim to provide these staff with the knowledge and skills they require in their specific workplace. An IOSH Managing Safely course, will give them an excellent practical grounding in health and safety and on successful completion they will be awarded with an IOSH Managing Safely Certificate - (our current pass rate is 100%).

IOSH is Europe's leading professional body for health and safety practitioners and these highly successful courses are practical, certificated and are delivered to over 60,000 people each year. Contact us to receive detailed course information, on 01562 632143.

NewGrange Training and Services Ltd, having recently completed the course, can highly recommend taking this training to further your organisations H & S policy and systems. If you wish to discuss training, please contact Paul Woodham on 07880 734197 or email paul@ghg.org.uk.

Sean McDade

## SOUTH EAST

## London

Hello to everyone, hope you had a great Easter. I hope we were not the only ones waiting for the growing season to really get underway - at last we are and the courses are looking superb. I have some news on our tournaments, they start at Sandy Lodge GC on May 8. First tee is from 11am. I know that doesn't give you much time but please try to come along, we will have a great day and our Chairman, Rob Phillips, will have the course in tip top condition. The next two events are at Stockley Park GC, and Porters Park GC. I'm waiting for dates to be confirmed and will let you know as soon as possible. Some other news from the area, congratulations to Gary Butler from Hendon on the birth of his baby girl - mother and daughter doing fine. Hello and thank you to Ben Burnham, deputy from South Herts GC for fixing our Kubota - see Ben your name is in the magazine! If you have any news for the Around the Green section please give me a call on 07818 410333.

Matt Plested

## Surrey

Thursday, May 4, the warmest day of the year so far, 26°C and all golf club members are praying the sun is here to stay for the summer. (In the South East, all BIGGA members are also on their knees but their prayers are for rain to fill the reservoirs and an end to the drought orders). This weekend, some rain is forecast, so let's hope for a sensible summer of warm days to keep the golfers happy and less critical and wet nights to keep the greenkeepers stress level below the suicidal.

Due to retirement at the end of March, is a man who needs little introduction. His voice you will recognise well before you see him and his GT golf swing on the tee, (which nobody has yet witnessed), will go down in history. Paul Weston, the Jacques Cousteau of greenkeeping, had his retirement golf day at the Drift GC, where he has drained the impossible for the last 30 years. His friends were there to celebrate with him, the weather was very kind and some 60 guests teed off in his honour, on a course he has cared for and been a member of, since being demobbed from the United Dairies all those years ago.

Paul, we had a wonderful day, as we are sure you and Doreen did and we look forward to seeing you at all Surrey Section sporting events. Remember, there is always a place in our new Surrey football eleven if you want it! In the meantime, enjoy the lawnmower and keep well.

Tony Gavin, Course Manager at Surrey Downs GC and his wife, Samantha, celebrated the birth of their son Brady Thomas (8lb 12ozs) on March 9. We wish much happiness to Ian Jennings, Head Greenkeeper at Wimbledon Common GC, his wife June and their new son Alfie (8lb 2ozs), who was born on March 6. Both boys have already had their names put down for the Surrey football team in 2024. We can only hope that by then, Ian Sellers will have hung up his boots for good and John Ross has done something else with his whistle.

Gareth Roberts, has again this year played a most important part in the organisation and running of a charity golf day at Hankley Common GC, in aid of autistic children. The event which took place on March 15 was blessed with warm, dry weather and raised around £11,000. Well done Gareth, I look forward to competing next year with the Dream team.

Surrey Sections second golf event of 2006 took place on Monday, May 8 at Woking GC, with some 52 members playing on a course carefully prepared by Jon Day and his team. The National Qualifier was indeed a competition not to be missed and although the day started with pouring rain, this had stopped by mid morning. Mike (but I played so well yesterday) Kirkham, Kevin (where did I put my sombrero) Day and yours truly, Brian (duck) Willmott made a magnificent threeball and Kevin, with some expert tuition from myself and Mike, played well under his handicap. Woking is a really attractive golf course, with many water hazards - both ditches and carp stocked ponds, once played it is a course you will want to return to again and again. The competition was sponsored by Amenity Technology and the prizes were presented by Ian (Volley) Sellers. The prize winners were: Best gross score. Wayne Sewell (68); Best net. Kevin Day (64), Andy Gatland (66); Longest Drive. Chris Lomas; Nearest the Pin. Ken Harding; Longest walk. Jon Day.

Although this was a stroke play competition, Dave Serles and Tony Brennan scored Stableford and won a bottle of wine and a smack.

Anthony (Kojak) Freeman, our beloved Chairman, reminded us that in future only those members who have returned their entry forms with a cheque, will be eligible to play in future competitions.

One final comment with regard to dress etiquette on golf days, please make sure you remember to bring your tie with you. Mike Kirkham did not and although the tie the club loaned him matched his eyes it clashed terribly with his shoes.

Brian Willmott

## Kent

In true British style I shall begin this month's report with weather issues.

As I sit here enjoying a few drinks in the warm summer sunshine in the Costa Del Kent it's all too easy to forget about the dreary, never-ending winter we all endured not so long ago. Indeed, the major talking point now, especially in Kent, is the impending water crisis and how we shall all be reduced to quivering wrecks when the water companies pull the plug on our supplies.

It would be very interesting to hear what, if any, contingency plans your clubs have put in place for such an eventuality. The consequences of a total irrigation ban are too frightening to contemplate. Please let us know your views via the website address at the end of this report.

On a lighter note, Kent Section had our first golf day recently at the beautiful



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**NORTHERN & MIDLAND**  
 Tel: 01476 550115

Littlestone GC. It was a real honour to be given the opportunity to play a course where strong, traditional values are upheld and nostalgia is everywhere around the links. A new record turnout for any of our golfing events travelled to the perfect setting provided by this historic club. Conspicuous by his absence was our Chairman, Kev Morris, whose wife was poorly on the day and didn't let him out. The course played superbly and was a credit to Malcolm Grand and his team of greenkeepers, the new tees were perfect, the greens were like lightening and if you hit the fairways, the ball bounced for miles into the typically snaggy rough. For most of the front nine we were playing downwind but as we turned to start, the back nine the sea breezes really started to blow making the course even more tricky! Thanks to Richard Hill and John Shaw Machinery, for providing a halfway barbeque, although no amount of food and beer could get my game going! Unfortunately, my golfing exploits on the day were not noteworthy enough for this report but playing on such hallowed turf certainly is.

Results were as follows: 1. Craig Wretham, Stonelees Golf Centre, 33 pts; 2. Malloy Parks, Littlestone, 32 pts; 3. Russell Bain, Chislehurst, 30 pts; 4. Paul Larsen, Royal St. Georges, 30 pts; 5. Malcolm Grand, Littlestone, 30 pts.

The Secretary of Littlestone, Charles Moorhouse, dined with us and in a short speech, he made before our meal, he acknowledged the work that greenkeepers carry out nationwide to promote their individual clubs. We thank him and his superb club for their hospitality.

It was great to see so many new faces at Littlestone, please remember you and your colleagues are always welcome at any of our events. Full up to date fixtures and news can be accessed at our website: [www.kentgreenkeepers.co.uk](http://www.kentgreenkeepers.co.uk).

Finally, I would just like to add one more thing: COME ON ENGLAND! (I presume you're talking about the association football tournament which is taking place this month, Editor)

Until next time.

Rob Holland

## Essex

It is one of the biggest accolades a man can receive - being asked to be best man at a friend's wedding. When organising the stag weekend, a precise and military style operation is required. Herding ten culturally aware, big arsed hairy men around Girona in Spain, is a liability. Three nights, two rounds of golf at top venues and San Miguel morning, noon and night have taken their toll. I have returned from the beer drinkers' equivalent of the London Marathon and am feeling every moment my 34 years of age. But still, one day's rest (which is not enough) and off to the first Essex Section golf day of the year.

The spring meeting at Ilford Golf Club, sponsored by Sheriff Amenity, was a cracking day out. A big thank you to Graham Paul for his continued support on our golf days. The weather was definitely on our side and I must say, even hotter than that which I had endured in Spain. Having never played Ilford before but knowing its exact location, my thoughts were of the motorway and the London Liverpool Street line. After only a few moments on the course my ill-conceived pre-conceptions were proven false. It was a well manicured course with some very attractive features. Well done to Sam and the team on presenting the course in such a marvellous fashion. I even enjoyed the wrist wrenching rough. A thank you is also in order to Ilford Golf Club for hosting the day.

Down on the first tee, Clare, from Vitax, kindly gave up some of her time to volunteer filling the starter's position for a few hours. Well done Clare. A big thank you!

The overall winner deservedly triumphed on the day with 42 pts off of a handicap of 6, well done Nick Gates, of Theydon Bois G.C. Nice arrows!

The category I winners were: 1. Tony Barker; 2. Bradley Adams; 3. Anthony Kirwan. Category II: 1. Craig Campbell; 2. Don Clark; 3. Andy McCreddie

Nearest the Pin for category I went to Jim Dillway and Roy Spong won the category II prize.

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The trade prize was won by Mick Fance, of Scotts and the Guest prize was won by Brain Arscott.

A wonderful spread was organised by the club and enjoyed by the golfers before the prizes were handed out and the raffle took place. Thanks, for all the generous donations for the raffle, go to: Avoncrop, Vitax, Rigby Taylor, Scotts, Tacit and Tuckwells.

Now then, Sam Cook, a word of advice, after you have forgotten your towel and need to borrow one, it is advisable not to use the one belonging to the Club Secretary momentarily before he, himself wishes to take a shower. Laughing audibly from the changing rooms as the Secretary asks around outside for his missing towel is definitely not in the 'How to influence and make friends' manual. By the way cheers for finishing off the raffle for me.

Langdon Hills GC, National qualifier up next on June 29. Remember to get those forms in early to avoid disappointment.

PS. Craig, yes you know who you are! No 'Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid' style handicaps on that day.

Until next month, be good!

Richard Williams



## South West

I downloaded our weather station the other day - or rather the Scotts iTurf uMETOS Tabular Recording Device, to give it its proper name and after a couple of sticky moments, when it looked like the batteries had gone flat and all the data was lost, it linked with the computer's infra-red port and downloaded 300 days of weather records. Within seconds, I had average temperatures, wind speed in metres per second, transpiration rates, sunlight hours, models for Brown Patch, Pythium Blight, and heaven knows what else, but when it came to precipitation - nothing showed. I was just at the point of cursing out loud, as rainfall is the really interesting bit, when I realised that actually, it had recorded rainfall but there was next to nothing showing. You had to look really hard to find it. (Just stop and think for a moment, when did you last get soaked on a machine?) A farmer pal of mine near Cirencester has boreholes on his land, which are used by the Environment Agency to monitor local groundwater levels. His boreholes are 19 metres (or over 40 feet) below their normal level right now. There's never been a better time to start stitching fescue and bent into those greens. Certainly, on the golf course, having got our spring renovation work over with early, we were then hit with the cold late spring and then by several hundred-thousand leatherjackets. I might send in the photos I took the day after we reluctantly applied Chlorpifyros - I actually had to draft an emergency notice, apologising for the number of grubs lying on the surface, breathing their last. We had been aware that we had had "a few" grubs in the greens for a little while, but eventually, you could clearly see them eating their way down the Graden lines. That's nature for you.

No such problems over at Chipping Sodbury for the Greenkeeper(Guest tournament back in April. The course was very well presented, particularly in light of the difficult conditions, by Clive, John, Tim, and the team and the section were made to feel really welcome. Our very sincere thanks to the whole club and all their staff.

The results were: 1. S. O'Connell & D. Halling-Brown, Mendip, 48 pts; 2. John Keenghan & Bob Williams, Chipping Sodbury, 45 pts; 3. Nobby Knight & Mike Durant, unattached, 45 pts.

Thanks to our Patronage Partners for the prizes and to Sue Malone, from Tower Chemicals, for supporting the day. Thanks are also due to Chris Sealey for stepping into the breach and helping with organising the Section Days while Nobby gets his business up and running.

Back at Minch, the back-nine bunker renovation project is now complete. We turfed during the only remotely wet period of the spring - laying some 3000 square metres of turf (all small rolls on pretty steep banks) in a week. By the end of the week, having rotated my staff so that no-one actually walked out, I realised that I was completely knackered. Oh to be 30-something again (or even 40-something would do). I had literally turfed myself into the ground. What we would have done without the New Holland TS100 tractor, now resplendent on turf tyres, I don't know.

This machine carried the heavy pallets of turf literally right onto the job. You can reach the turf in the right place at just the right height without any double handling. Awesome. We have a valuable addition to our greenkeeping team in the form of Sarah Allcock, who has the lofty job title of Greenkeeper\ Ecology Coordinator. Sarah has a degree in Biological Science from Swansea University, races ocean-going yachts in her spare time and has taken a keen interest in the ecology of the golf course. Joining at a very busy time she is getting the hang of ride-on greens equipment, while completely overhauling our ecology programmes.

Never underestimate the importance of an expert (or so Sarah keeps telling me!). Hopefully, by the time this hits the shelves, the spring weather will have picked up, we'll all be enjoying warm rain at night and bright sunny days. We're looking forward to the Gloucestershire County Championships at the end of May, South West Counties week in June and the Open round in July. Then I'm looking forward to two weeks in Italy. Happy Greenkeeping.

Paul Worster. paulw@mgcnew.co.uk 01453 837355.

## South Coast

Firstly, apologies for the lack of Section notes last month but the phone remained silent and there was no news to relay to you. We have, at last, seen some rain and how we needed it! It's been a very difficult winter and an even more difficult start to the season so surely things can only get better for us.

We have had two excellent Section visits since my last report. Our first one was to Eco composting depot, where Sales Manager, Andy Hill, showed us the large scale composting process with some very applicable end products. We were also shown around the turf production unit before being supplied with an excellent lunch. Many thanks to Eco and Andy Hill, it was a great shame more people didn't attend.

Our second visit was to Remedy Oak GC where Project Manager, Trevor Smith and Course Manager, Robert Hogarth showed us around the course, explaining the process of bringing the design concept to reality. We had a great turn out and learned much about the creeping bentgrass, that has established so well on the greens. Lunch was provided by Toro's Mark Winder. A great day was had by all. Many thanks to Trevor, Robert and Alan Magee, for showing us around and answering the many questions.

The draw has now been made for the Jim Fry pairs. Please ensure all matches are played promptly and that you phone all match results through to Phil Wentworth. Good luck to you all!

April saw our first golf day of the year, it was a very special day for the section, as it was the playing of the Colin White memorial trophy at Wellow GC. A great field of over 50 assembled to pay tribute to "Chalks" and hopefully win a place through to the national tournament. Our sponsors on the day were Avoncrop and Vitax and as usual Joe Crawley was on hand to ensure that everyone started off on time. Joe really is the South coasts Mr Starter, he does a fantastic job and is always treated to an array of different opening shots, which I'm sure makes the job all the more interesting. Joe is busy decorating the nursery after the fantastic news that he will become a proud father in October, we wish him and his lovely wife all the best.

The tournament was a 27 hole Stableford and Colin's mum and brother were present to give out the prizes to the winners who were:

Division 1. 1. Scott Taylor, 64pts; 2. Dave King 63pts; Division 2. 1. Spencer Haines, 64pts; 2. James Pouden, 60pts; Division 3 - 1. George Cooper, 65pts; 2. Peter Handfod, 57pts; Longest Drive. Colin Pardie; Nearest the Pin. Dave King.

A huge thank you to Wellow GC for their superb hospitality. Graham Bungay and his team must be congratulated on producing a first class course, there wasn't a blade of grass out of place.

Many thanks to the stewards, along with all the catering and bar staff who looked after us so well and gave us a feast to remember.

Chris Sturgess, as always came up trumps in organising the day and we are extremely thankful for all his hard work in making our golf days such enjoyable ones.

To our sponsors, Avoncrop and Vitax, a massive thank you for a truly superb prize table. We really appreciate all you do for our Section.

I am currently looking for some talented footballers to play for the Section in a match against the Surrey Section. The date and venue are yet to be confirmed but interested players, please contact me.

Robin Wilcox, of Canford Magna GC, is helping in an Oxfam collection of used postage stamps. He would be really grateful if you could send all your used postage stamps to him and help raise money for this excellent charity. Stamps should be sent

to: Robin Wilcox, 108 Windham Road, Bournemouth BH1 4RD. Many thanks!

Our next golf day is at The Army Golf Club on July 12. It's an invitation day and all entries along with a cheque for £21 per person, made payable to BIGGA south coast should be sent to: Chris Sturgess, 31 Bay Road, Sholing SO19 8EZ.

Until next month.  
Alex McCombie

**Devon & Cornwall**

How many times have we heard members make a comment on the course, "Where are all the Greenkeeping staff? Why aren't they on the course working?" The fact is with the clocks going forward the majority of the course work has been completed before the golfers arrive, but having said that, there is always an exception to the rules. At the Lanhydrock GC, near Bodmin, in Cornwall, one of the Greenstaff was mowing the 12th fairway when to his surprise the machine bounced viciously. Luckily he had the foresight to put his foot down on the pedal, then stop and look around, to his horror he found a large hole, 5ft x 4ft and 25ft deep. Surprise, surprise, he had just driven over an old mine shaft. I had a conversation with Martin Morgan, the Head Greenkeeper and apparently in the old days they mined copper and tin in the area and the mine is called Treoil. Martin informed me that some wonderful suggestions have come from the members on how to rectify the problems - wishing well and another bunker to mention a couple. Who said Greenkeeping was boring?

I know that Brian Summers, the Course Manager, at Carlyon Bay GC, near St Austell has had the same experience on his course in the past. Who mentioned health and safety?

Congratulations to Justin Austin, ex Head Greenkeeper at Windwhistle GC, near Chard, in Somerset, who is on the move. He has procured the Course Manager's position at Trethorne GC, at Launceston, in Cornwall. We wish you all the best. Justin is the Vice Chairman of our Section.

As I write this report the weather is an excellent 22°C, with bright blue skies, although dropping considerably at night, down to 5 degrees. Long may it continue.

Have a good month, in fact, a good year.  
Donovan O Hunt, Events Co-ordinator.

**NORTHERN IRELAND**

I would like to apologise for the lack of notes over the last few months.

Our Section organised a visit to Malone GC, in Belfast, in early April, to view Course Manager, Mike Norman's Woodland Management Project.

Mike received useful advice and support from his local biodiversity officer with Belfast City Council, the RSPB and Wildlife Trust. The work has involved the removal of Lauriel and Rhododendron Ponticum, from under mature deciduous woodland. We viewed the resultant re-generation of tree species and wildflowers. Mike and his staff have also introduced large numbers of bird boxes, to assist the breeding of wildfowl and woodland bird species. He intends to control the local grey squirrel population, as this area of Belfast is one of the few remaining habitats of the red squirrel, in Northern Ireland. We would like to thank Malone and Mike Norman for accommodating our visit.

Our first golf day of the year took place on April 27 at Rockmount GC, near Carryduff. Robert Patterson and family, have created and developed an outstanding golf course, complemented with a clubhouse, restaurant and quality food, which could best be described as five star.

Results were: 1. Ken Henderson, Allen Park GC, 37pts; 2. Gary Murphy Silverwood GC, 34 pts; 3. Eamonn Crawford, Royal Co Down GC, 33 pts; 4. Gerry Bruen, Kilkeel GC, 33pts; Visitors' Prize. Robert Patterson, Rockmount GC, 32 pts; Nearest the Pin. Gary Murphy, Silverwood GC; Longest Drive. Eamonn Crawford R C D.

Our next golf day will be at Downpatrick GC on Tuesday, May 30 with a 1pm tee time.

I would like to welcome three new members this month: Trevor Andrews, James Patterson and William McCann from Dunmurray Golf Club.

Well, that's all my news for this month. I hope to see you all at Downpatrick later this month.  
Francis Henderson

**SECTION NOTES INFORMATION**

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

Word limit for Section notes: 500-600.

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 HQ.

**In the Shed ANSWERS**

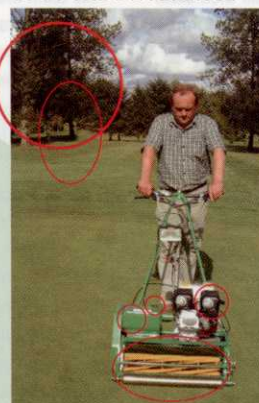
**CROSSWORD**

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**SUDOKU**

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**SPOT THE DIFFERENCE**



**ANAGRAM**

CHAPEL MILE LAMB - Michael Campbell  
MORE COIL GEM IN TON - Colin Montgomerie

**A QUICK NINE HOLES**

1. Germany and Brazil. 2-0 to Brazil
2. Johan Edfors
3. Peter Stringer
4. Bulgaria and Japan
5. Michael Ballack
6. Numbersixalverde
7. Roberto de Vicenzo
8. Richard Caborn
9. Matthew Pinsent, James Cracknell and Tim Foster

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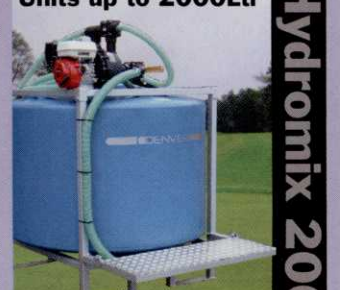
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