



Local knowledge was obviously vital as Gerald Bruce took the honours with 36 points after countback from Paul Crouch, St Neots GC. Oly Browning, Stocks GC, came in third with 34 points, A. Butler won Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin was Gerald Bruce.

After the golf, the Section held the AGM and John Gubb, the Bedfordshire GC, was elected as new Chairman. For those of you that are unacquainted with John, he is easy to recognise as the wet suit, fins and aqualung are a bit of a give away. The rain from the previous night had flooded poor John's sheds out yet again.

The golf day was well supported by both greenkeepers and the trade and it was nice to see so many old friends. It would be great to see some new faces, as well as the old ones, at the golf meetings next year and if you haven't been before or if it is a while since you played, then come and join us as you will be most welcome.

I can't believe it's that time of year again but best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Well, that's it this month, short and simple – just like me! If anybody has any Section news then please contact me at the address below.

craig.spooner@advanta-seeds.co.uk 07769 740 314



SOUTH EAST – SURREY

When you read this I will have just returned from four weeks holiday in Australia and I will be suffering from post holiday blues. Please be considerate when I call for I will want you all to listen to my tales of daring do and show you photos of shark wrestling and how to get a free kangaroo meal simply by scraping it off the road. And, lastly, do not ask to see my Didgeridoo, it is a personal problem and something I prefer to keep hidden.

If you missed my report last month, and all of you did due to circumstances beyond my control - I did not write one. I will, therefore, bring you up to date with news from around the county and beyond.

The only golf event that has taken place since my last jottings was a three way competition between Surrey, Essex and Sussex at Colne Valley GC, situated on the border of Essex and Suffolk, on September 19. Some of you may have heard rumours spread by a person from Worthing that the number of points I scored was below expectations. Well, I will admit to a slightly under par round, but may I remind you that anything said by a person from Worthing should always be taken with a pinch of salt, or any other organic fertiliser he may try to sell you. Surrey came 3rd, Sussex 2nd and Essex won the day, partly due to the superb play of one ex-Surrey member, the infamous Douglas Iolanthe Fernie, known to a few intimate friends as Wee Dougie.

Kevin Day should by now be recovering from a replacement hip operation, and we all wish him well and to please keep all the gory details to himself.

Michael Sawicki, who at this very moment is in Oz, will return to his new position at Dulwich and Sydenham Hill GC, as General Manager. Congratulations Mike and may all your problems be member shaped.

Surrey 4, Sussex 1. The result of the fourth football match between Surrey and Sussex played at Three Bridges FC, on October 25. I was unable to play due to a bout of cowardice after seeing previous struggles and gladly gave up my place to John Ross. Many thanks to Three Bridges FC for providing a venue in excellent condition. The following is a report of the match, supplied by one of the great Surrey footballers, Dave Langhiem, whose prowess on the pitch has always impressed – Just ask the person from Worthing.

Surrey's Andy Dennis scored the first goal, after only one minute's play. Ten minutes into play and tragedy - John Ross, defrocked from his usual referees black number and kitted out in Surrey's colours playing a Beckham position, suddenly froze - Groin strain had struck and he limped from the field. Sussex equalised but a determined Surrey would not be beaten and scored another two goals with the fourth being blasted home only five minutes from the final whistle. Andy Dennis got a second goal, Craig Martin also scored one, as did Lee Ringer from Foxhills.

Please remember to attend the Turkey Trot and AGM at Tyrrells Wood GC, on December 13, and bring with you nominations for Chairman.

Brian Willmott



KENT

Hi Guys, I can't believe how quickly this year has gone, can you?! Here I am already writing my last report of the year for Kent Section which would normally mean that we are freezing our bits off out on our golf courses at the moment, yet here we are (in mid-November) with the grass growing as strongly as ever and warm, winter sunshine! Can't get enough of that global warming eh?

For those of you that weren't able to attend the Regional Seminar hosted by us at Hadlow College, I can tell you you missed out on a great day with a multitude of greenkeepers from all over the south east enjoying the feast of knowledge heaped on them by a very varied array of speakers. Thanks to the many that came for making it such a good, interactive affair, especially during the open forum at the end of the proceedings! Thanks to Hadlow College for hosting the day and to John Millen and Clive Osgood for doing much of the organisational legwork.

Fixtures for 2008 are now booked and these will be posted to all of you very soon. If you haven't received one by the New Year please leave a message on our webpage. We have arranged five (yes five!) golf days for next year at some really great venues so make notes in your diaries as soon as possible to avoid missing out.

Many thanks to all of you who have attended any of our events this year for making it such a memorable year and to all our sponsors for making it all possible. On behalf of the Kent committee I wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a successful 2008.

Rob Holland

Around the Green

LONDON



Well another year has flown by and a new one is on the horizon.

Firstly just a few reminders, this year's final golf day will be the Scotts Trophy (aka the turkey trot) to be held at Porters Park on December 12, following the golf will be the AGM, as for the format of the golf itself it will again be a team of three Texas scramble. Places are running out fast so please contact me, Aaron, on: 07966 247 913 and book your place.

2008 fixtures: The AT Oliver Trophy, Northwood GC on April 10, The Rigby Taylor Trophy, Hendon GC on August 6 and the Scotts Trophy (aka the Turkey Trot) at Porters Park on December 11 - The above info will also be available on the London Section's website as from mid December.

Also to watch out for, is the Avoncrop Amenity Knockout Tournament new for 2008. All info for this will again be posted on our website.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the following for their ongoing support throughout the year, Avoncrop Amenity, Banks Amenity, AT Olivers, Gem Professional, Seoul Nassau Golf, Prime Irrigation, Rigby Taylor, Rainbird, Scotts and Turner Groundscare.

And finally I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Aaron Percival



EAST ANGLIAN

I'm going to get writers cramp at this rate - Two in three weeks. I mustn't complain - no news is bad news.

Bury St Edmunds (I didn't know he was dead!) was the venue for the happy wanderers on October 3. It has been a few years since we were there. They've put new roads in and all sorts, but we all got there in the end.

The Greenkeeper, Captain Shield was at stake and duly won by Martin Mison and Vince Walsh with 67 points. The rest of the results were as follows: 0-9 Handicap 1. Mark Henderson, 38pts; 2. Norman Fenwick, 37pts; 3. Peter Howard, 36 pts. 10-18 Handicap 1. Asa Barber, 33pts; 2. Martin Brightwell, 32pts; 3. Chris Gurton, 32pts. 19-28 Handicap 1. Martin Mison, 32pts; 2. John Morley-Small, 31pts; 3. Andrew Baker, 30pts. G&T Section 1. Edward 'The Consultant' Clarkson, 40pts; 2. Ian Benn, 39pts; 3. Mark Keyse, 36pts. Nearest the Pin - Chris Gurton; Longest Drive - Jamie Gill. The loo seat was won by Tomo for taking his dog on the course. He parked by the 'no dog' sign - should have gone to Specsavers! Prizes were presented by Vince Walsh the Club Captain. The course was in good nick thanks to Steve Millard and his crew. Thankfully the greens were not as quick as the putting green, it frightened the life out of me. The grub was handsome and the hospitality was second to none.

Our Trade mates came up trumps yet again. Our main sponsors Toro

and the following can all take a bow: Bartram Mowers, Textron, Tacit, Rigby Taylor, CMW, Sisis, A & K Supplies, Midlube, Collier Turf Care, Aitkens, Scotts, Earnest Doe, Ben Burgess, Sherriff (of Nottingham), Toro, Tomlinson Ground Care, Consultant Clarkson, Headland, Atterton & Ellis and Lely UK.

Thank you once again Bury St Edmunds Golf Club for a super day out. And finally, a message for Brian - "Nil Desperadum Illegitimi"

Mick Lathrope



ESSEX

This month's news is very brief, as the only thing that has gone on in the Section this month was the English Golf Union, Golf Services Roadshow at Colne Valley Golf Club. Supported by John Deere and with the following speakers from the STRI - Bob Taylor, Swan Golf Designs - William Swan, Crown Golf - Laurence Pithie MG, Writtle College - Nigel Beckford, Agronomist - David Rhodes and John Deere gave a machine demonstration and talk on there products.

Attended by very few greenkeepers but quite a few golf club representatives and a few students, the day was interesting, the afternoon session was conducted out on golf course with the Bob Taylor and David Rhodes splitting the group in two for an hour each, talking on different aspects of golfcourse management and ecology.

The next news will be of the Christmas Texas Scramble and AGM at Orsett Golf Club.

Arnold Phipps-Jones highwoods.photographic@virgin.net
01206-852.353
www.essexbigga.co.uk



SOUTH WEST - SOUTH WALES

Congratulations from the Regional Board to Stuart Ross, from Cradoc Golf Club, and Richard Oakley, from Erlestoke Golf Club, for reaching the finals of the Toro Student Of The Year Competition. Well done to both of you!



SOUTH WEST

A touch of fog greeted competitors for the Autumn Tournament at Minchinhampton back in mid-October. One of those annoying days "when it was okay just down the road" but on our particular hilltop you couldn't see your hand in front of your face. Now I don't know about your courses, but we have a well-used public footpath running right across five different fairways, so we have little choice but to suspend play during thick fog. As the tee-off time approached, the fog started to get patchy and lift, and then fall again. My pre-match warm-up comprised of running up and down stairs and out onto the course like a complete idiot - first of all my bacon roll went missing (probably cold) and then someone drank



my coffee (even though I'd sneezed in it) – not surprisingly when we did eventually tee off, I wasn't in the best frame of mind.

However, I think it's fair to say the day was a huge success, and thanks very much for the nice comments about the Evening Course. I actually thought it was outstanding for the time of year so my personal thanks to Dave, Adam, and all our staff who always put in so much. For those who are interested, the cutting height on the greens was 3mm and the greens were also vibro-rolled. The Stimp meter was around ten foot-six. As regards to fertiliser we only granular feed in the spring, otherwise monthly light top-dressings, and applications of liquid N plus Primo-Maxx sometimes bulked with liquid seaweed. The greens are Bent/Poa with the bent increasing through regular overseeding.

The winners were: 1. Roger Neale, Taunton & Pickeridge GC, 39pts on count-back; 2. Wayne Vincent, Cotswold Hills GC, 39 pts; 3. Allan Smith, Long Ashton GC, 38 pts.

Thanks very much to Minchinhampton New for hosting, and thanks to Stuart and Sara for the excellent meal afterwards. By the way – Nearest the Pin went to yours truly on the 5th hole after a scruffy second shot from a divot went surprisingly close, and Adam Matthews on the 10th with a beautifully struck iron shot over the water. Finally Nobby, only kidding about the sneeze.

37 members attended the AGM afterwards, and virtually all committee members continued for 2008. I would like to pay tribute to them all, but particularly Chris Sealey and Nobby Knight, who are unendingly enthusiastic and without whom we would struggle. Mark Haring stepped down as Education Officer and will be replaced at the first full committee meeting. Team Captain, Wayne "McClaren" Vincent, who in a moment of clarity admitted that if he'd been managing the Columbian National football team, he'd have been shot by now, was provided with coaching staff and technical backup in the form of Paul Garland. Paul comes onto the Committee as Team Vice Captain replacing John Richards. Welcome Paul, and thanks very much for your support. Thanks were also paid to our Patronage Partners - Avoncrop Amenity, Vitax, Irritech, Tower Sport Europe, B.S. Mowers, Rigby Taylor, Symbio, Countrywide, and M.J. Abbott. An all-expenses (within reason) paid place at Harrogate week is also available via the Patronage Scheme – please write to Nobby Knight and tell him why you wish to attend, and what you hope to gain. The best entry wins the trip. The address is: 17, St Mary's Gardens, Hilperton Marsh, Trowbridge, BA14 7PG.

I also attended the EGU roadshow at Burnham & Berrow recently. It was very nice to see the day so well supported with a very interesting series of lectures. However, it was a great shame that bad weather intervened, and we were unable to get out on the course to see the extensive dune-reclamation project. We are down there again for the Christmas Tournament on December 12 and Richard Whyman is leading a course walk. Please get in touch with Nobby Knight ASAP should you wish to attend.

Bridgwater College recently hosted another one-day training course – This time on machinery maintenance. These days are open to all, and this one provided fascinating insights into what makes golf course machinery tick, safety in the workplace, fault-finding, and financing new purchases. Other one-day courses in this series are: 07.01.2008 – Golf Course Presentation; 27.02.2008 – Manage Oneself; 26.3.2008 – Create

Grassed & Planted Areas. Contact George Pitts at Bridgwater College on 01278 655144 or 07929 754401 or email: pittsg@bridgwatercollege.ac.uk to discuss content and times etc.

I look forward to seeing you all at Burnham & Berrow. By the way, if anyone's been having difficulty with sending me email – I'm being besieged by spammers at the moment – dozens of daily unsolicited mails along the lines of online banking (not wanted), insider stock market trading (not interested), various personal enhancements (not needed), so please persevere.

Paul Worster paulw@mgcnew.co.uk
07768 394593



SOUTH COAST

Once again the South Coast Section was blessed with wonderful weather for the latest Golf Tournament held at North Hants GC on October 23. The course was in excellent condition and was very well presented, many congratulations to Mark Openshaw and his team for setting up a great golf course for the day. The format was Stableford full handicap and the winners were as follows: 1. Paul Cooper, 36 pts; 2. Jamie Pender, 34 pts; 3. Joe Newman, 31 pts; The Longest Drive – Colin Hutt (obviously three shredded wheat that morning!); Nearest the Pin – Shane Hodgkins. Well done lads and thank you to everybody else who played on the day. We pay much thanks to Rigby Taylor, the sponsors for the day. Gratitude to Mike Ring & Dave Rogers. The hospitality from the staff at North Hants GC was superb. The food and drink was top class and particular thanks must go to Steward, James Kinnear, and to Chef, Mick Ogden.

The Section's AGM was held after the days play. Phil Wentworth, our Deputy Chairman, ran the meeting as unfortunately our Chairman, Tony Gadd, was unable to attend. The meeting flowed very well, with presentations from Chris Bitten, the Secretary, Chairman's Report from Phil Wentworth and Treasurers report by Fred Demon. The major topic of conversation was the planning and format for the 2008 Section Seminar. Chris Bitten reported that he had a very poor response to his survey in regard of ideas etc for the seminar. The response was zero! Joe Crawley responded saying do we take the lack of response as an endorsement for the current format? Ed McCabe agreed the format was fine but perhaps we should look at local greenkeepers presenting. This did have some agreement. It was decided to continue work on the seminar for 2008 based on the current format - watch this space for further details. This leads me on to say that if you have any further ideas on subjects for the seminar or any other news regarding the Section for the Around the Green article please give me a call on the number below.

Chris Sturgess presented his Tournament Organiser's report and announced his standing down from the position and the Committee. I'm sure you will all agree with me that Chris has done a sterling job in this position. It is a very hard job, time consuming, frustrating organising the late entrants, late payments, no payments etc. So well done mate, we all really appreciate your efforts and wish you and Maggie all the very best for the future. So, the new Tournament Organiser is Kevan Glass. Please contact Kevan from now on for booking and payment of Golf Days at the following address: Apartment 1, Forge Side Court, Lepe Road, Langley, Southampton SO45 1SS or on mobile 07859 053054 or



Around the Green



on e-mail: glassy2003@hotmail.com.

The next Golf Day, if you get this issue before, is the Turkey Trot at Barton-On-Sea GC on December 5. If you read this after, those who played I'm sure had a good day.

That just leaves me to say, have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year from both myself and the Committee. Oh, and by the way, at last I have moved house, yippee! All the best to you all and speak to you in the New Year.

Joe Crawley 07721 389200



DEVON & CORNWALL

Our first autumn meeting was held at Elfordleigh GC in October. With the grass still growing strong and the good old Royal Mail on strike, it was a miracle we got anyone to turn up! However, this is the Devon and Cornwall Section we're talking about and after a few late evenings spent on the phone, we had golfers from all parts of both counties to turn up and support our Section.

The day was sponsored by Roffeys and members played for the D.O.Hunt Trophy. As you all know, Don Hunt passed away in May and his wife Liz was invited to present the trophy to the winner, Lloyd Overy, from Ashbury GC. A BIGGA plaque was presented to Head Greenkeeper, Will Hutchinson, for hosting a Section event and we hope he will give it pride of place in the Club House.

We would like to thank Roffeys for their continued support and also the bar staff and catering team for looking after our needs during the day. I would also like to thank Head Greenkeeper, Will Hutchinson and his team, for presenting the course in excellent condition, and finally to our special guest, Liz Hunt. The Section presented Liz with a cut glass decanter and glasses for all her work in helping run the Devon and Cornwall Section over the years.

The AGM followed the festivities with a few changes to the committee. Yours truly stood down as Chairman and was replaced by Justin Austin, from Trethorne GC. I'm sure Justin will do a super job and I wish him the best of luck. Colin Webber is the new Vice Chairman and also Regional Board Member. Colin's experience will stand us in good stead and I also wish him the best of luck in his new roles. The other roles were taken by: Abi Crosswood, Newquay Golf Club - Secretary; Graham Gallimore, Launceston Golf Club - Chairman of Education; Jeff Mills, Taunton and Pickridge - Regional and National Board Representative. I think that covers things pretty much. If I've missed anything out, please accept my apologies.

Dates for your diaries: Tuesday, December 11 - Christmas Meeting - Okehampton GC; Wednesday, January 9 2008 - West Cornwall GC; January 20-24 - BTME Show, Harrogate; Wednesday, February 13 - Tavistock GC; Wednesday, March 5 - Spring Workshop based on Sustainability - Fingle Glen GC; Wednesday, March 12 - Royal North Devon GC.

Steve Evans

SOUTH WALES

Hi everybody, I hope you are all enjoying this Indian summer we are having at the moment, although we could do with a bit of frost to kill some of the disease.

On with my first report and it's off to West Monmouth GC on Wednesday, October 10 for our autumn Golf Day, information is limited as I was unable to attend. The day was sponsored by Keith Morgan Mowers - A big thank you to John and Ben for their continued support, thank you to West Mon GC for the use of their course, the greenstaff for their hard work and the bar and catering staff for their hospitality and fine food.

On to the winners, in first place winning the K.M.M Trophy was our own wonder boy, Rhys Madonagh with 44 points - Well done Rhys. In second place with 35 points (on back nine) was Gerry Humphries both Garry and Rhys are at Llanwern GC. In third place, also on 35 points, was Emyr Nickels Inco. Best Trade was won by Peter Holstrum on 42 points - Well done to everyone of you.

Owing to the circumstances the AGM will now be held at the Christmas fixture on December 7 at the Pyle and Kenfig GC. Please try to attend.

My next report is on the Rigby Taylor Match Play finals played over The Royal Porthcawl GC on November 1. The finalists were Rhys Mcdonagh and Garry Humphries, Llanwern GC, v Andy Roach and Mickey, Haverford West GC. The match was close for the first 9 holes but on the back nine youth prevailed and Rhys and Garry emerged as the winners by 5&3. Well done to both pairs for getting to the finals and to Rhys and Garry because after three years of making the finals they have finally won the Rose bowl well done boys!

Thanks to Rigby Taylor for their continued support and to David Carvey, Roy Barker and Peter Griffiths for a very enjoyable day and evening. Last but not least thanks to Royal Porthcawl for allowing us to hold the event over their fantastic course and of course all the staff inside and out for their hard work and to all of you who did not make it this year better luck next year!

Henry Stead 07889792190

BIGGA's Regional Administrators



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Section Notes - Can all notes be emailed to: melissa@bigga.co.uk by the 5th of the month prior to publication please. Suggested word guide: 500

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING INFORMATION

In accordance with the Constitution –

General Meetings 12 a) “Notice of resolutions to be proposed at the Annual General Meeting shall be sent to the Chief Executive in writing not less than 40 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting which shall be circulated to the membership not less than 28 days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

The following proposal has been lodged and will be raised at the AGM to be held in the Queens Suite of Harrogate International Centre at 5.15pm on Wednesday, January 23, 2008

“That the Association puts aside a sum of money with the intention of purchasing land, laying out a golf course and building a clubhouse which will also serve as BIGGA Headquarters.”



SCOTTISH GOLF ENVIRONMENT GROUP

I write in reference to a letter from Tom Murray of Ratho Park Golf Club, regarding the funding of SGEG.

I am afraid that Mr Murray is mistaken in his assertion that the Scottish Golf Union has cut back its funding of SGEG. The reality is that funding from the environmental sector and Scottish Government has been cut drastically, meaning that the Board had to take the very difficult decision not to renew Elspeth Coutt's contract.

We are only too aware of the excellent work that Elspeth did and she will be missed. However, we retain a firm commitment to an ongoing environmental service to Scottish golf clubs and to retaining our two excellent advisors.

In addition to the funding from the SGU, the SGEG Board is very grateful to the R&A Golf Course Committee for its ongoing commitment to this vital environmental service for golf in Scotland.

Colin Wood
Chairman SGEG

PASTURES NEW

Hi, my name is John Davenport and I am a member of the North West Section.

I've been Head Greenkeeper at Turton Golf Club in Bolton for 10 years now, but will be moving to pastures new in the New Year.

I will be going from a semi-moorland course set in 127 acres to Dunnerholme Golf Club near the Lake District, a links course with 138 acres of land.

A unique opportunity and hopefully a better quality of life!

I would be ecstatic if you could post this in your next issue of Greenkeeper International.

Yours kindly
John Davenport

BIGGA HQ TELEPHONE EXTENSIONS A REMINDER...

As you should already be aware, BIGGA HQ recently had a new telephone system fitted. When you phone the usual number: 01347 833800, it will ask if you know the extension of the person you would like to speak to. For reference, the extensions of BIGGA staff are printed below (you can also find these on our website – www.bigga.org.uk):

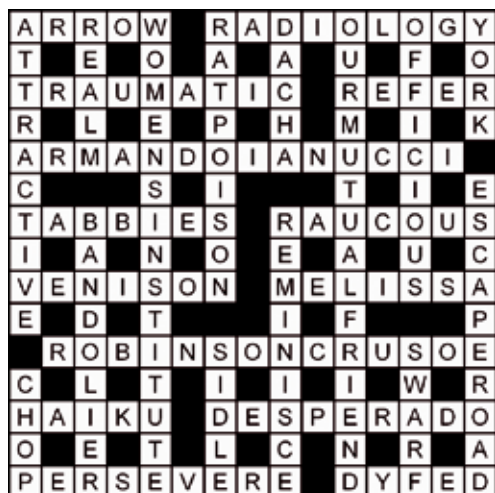
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Rosie Hancher, Sales Manager	518
Marie Whyld, Design & Production Editor (currently on maternity leave)	513
Vanessa Depre, Membership Services Officer	511
Pauline Thompson, Exhibition Officer	514
Melissa Toombs, Assistant Editor	516
Stephen Coates, Accountant	508
Sami Collins, Head of Learning and Development	506
Brad Anderson, Membership Services Assistant	512
Karen Russell, Sales Assistant (currently on maternity leave)	515
Sue McDonough, Exhibition Sales	504
Kirstin Smith, Advertising Executive	517
Fliss Chaffer, Advertising Assistant	519
Rachael Duffy, Learning & Development Administrator	522
Tracey Tyerman, Assistant Accountant	503
Sandra Raper, Secretary/Administrative Assistant	509



In the Shed

ANSWERS

CROSSWORD



QUICK NINE HOLE QUIZ

- 1 Football
- 2 Hockey
- 3 Ice Hockey
- 4 Walkers Stadium
- 5 Kite Flying
- 6 155
- 7 Baseball
- 8 Skiing
- 9 Pele

MONSTER SUDOKU

4	3	6	5	1	8	9	7	2
1	2	9	7	3	6	5	8	4
5	8	7	4	2	9	3	1	6
8	1	2	9	6	4	7	5	3
7	5	4	3	8	1	6	2	9
9	6	3	2	7	5	8	4	1
2	4	5	6	9	7	1	3	8
3	9	8	1	5	2	4	6	7
6	7	1	8	4	3	2	9	5

SQUIGGLY SUDOKU

3	8	4	5	9	1	7	2	6
9	1	7	2	5	6	4	8	3
7	4	6	3	2	8	1	5	9
5	2	1	6	3	9	8	4	7
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4	9	3	8	7	2	5	6	1
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6	7	2	1	8	4	9	3	5

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