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WHAT'S YOUR NUMBER?



Name: Joanne Hooper

Position: Sales and Marketing Co-ordinator

Company: OptimizeGolf

How long have you been in the industry?

"I joined OptimizeGolf in July '06. This is my first role specifically within the golf industry."

How did you get into it?

"My experience is in marketing communications but I've always had a passion for golf, encouraged by a competitive husband, dad and brother. OptimizeGolf were recruiting for sales & marketing staff, I applied out of curiosity. After my interview, I was so excited about the opportunity to work in such an innovate industry, I wouldn't go away until they hired me!"

What other jobs have you done?

"I've been in marketing for 10 years."

What do you like about your current job?

"This last year's been a huge learning curve for me, it's been thrilling to learn about golf course management, greenkeeping, surveying techniques and the 'behind the scenes' industry that is busy ensuring the wellbeing of our golf courses. Last year I was lucky enough to stroll around The Old Course with Ernie Els and Vijay Singh at the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship, using our Shotmiser device to record their shots – and they call this work!"

What changes have you seen during your time in the industry?

"The need for courses to get as much out of surveys as possible. In the past GPS surveys have been conducted for one specific purpose or because a course thought it should 'have a survey done' which ends up stored away due to its impractical size and limited use. As courses increasingly employ the services of irrigation consultants and architects, they require detailed course data that can be used for all these purposes, as well as being a valuable information source for themselves."

What do you do in your spare time?

"Try to improve my awful swing!"

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

"I've already informed the boss I will be International Director of Sales & Marketing, after helping OptimizeGolf to achieve worldwide success!"

Who do you consider to be your best friends in the industry?

"I've been surprised by how friendly this industry is. We exhibited at Harrogate and Anaheim, the atmosphere was so sociable with everyone networking. I'm looking forward to Harrogate Week 2008 and the GIS show."

What do you consider to be your lucky number? "8"

Pick a number "78"

Joanne has picked Paul Johnson from Barenbrug



In the Shed

Greenkeeper International brings you 'In the Shed', a puzzle page to keep you entertained when the weather forces you in or for when times are slow.

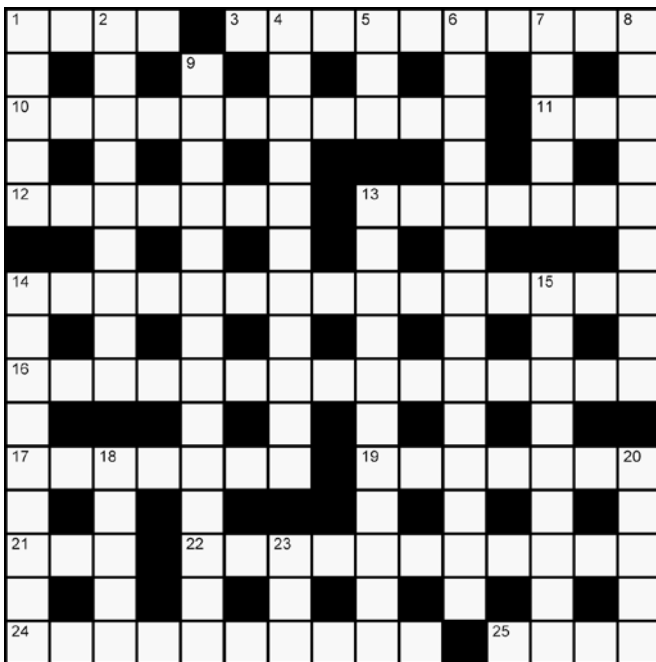
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 To conceal or disguise (4)
- 3 Overwhelmed, flabbergasted (6,4)
- 10 The first Beatles single credited to "Lennon/McCartney", not vice versa (3,5,3)
- 11 Roman god of the underworld (3)
- 12 Bang on (7)
- 13 Smooth-leaved variety of kale (7)
- 14 1980 film starring Goldie Hawn and Eileen Brennan (7,8)
- 16 Type of TV show based on the humour of daily life (9,6)
- 17 Dreamlike, characterised by fantastic imagery (7)
- 19 Piece of audio equipment sometimes called "cans" (7)
- 21 Cut down, terminate (3)
- 22 Good day in Italy (11)
- 24 NEGATIVISM (anagram) (4-6)
- 25 Out of control (4)

DOWN

- 1 "I don't know anything about --. In my line you don't have to" (Elvis Presley) (5)
- 2 Garden herb, mentha spicata (9)
- 4 Too old to be of use (4,3,4)
- 5 Narrative song with repeating chorus (3)
- 6 Prosecution of a defendant for a crime upon which judgment has previously been served (6,8)
- 7 Alcoholic drink whose name is based on "water" (5)
- 8 Householding (9)
- 9 Split up - literally or figuratively (2,8,4)
- 13 Facially fresh? (5-6)
- 14 Get a vehicle going by engaging the clutch while in motion (4-5)
- 15 Vortex (9)
- 18 Watery nasal discharge (5)
- 20 Exercise the mind (5)
- 23 "Gun" an engine (3)

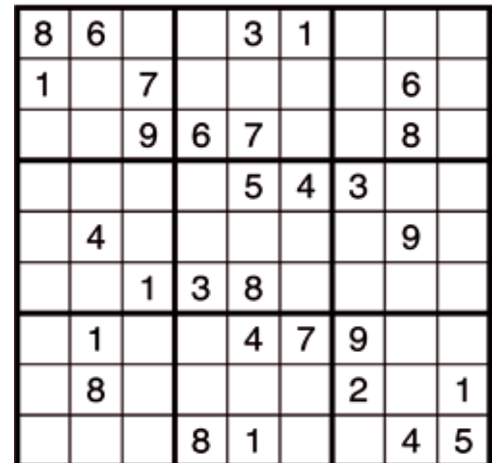


QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

- 1 Which sportsman published his autobiography entitled 'My Life And The Beautiful Game' in 1977?
- 2 Who was the only female to win the BBC Sports Personality of the year in the 1990s?
- 3 Lending her name to a famous sports manufacturer, who was the Greek Goddess of Victory?
- 4 Which famous American sports star was nicknamed 'The Juice'?
- 5 Which synthetic fabric was first developed by Dupont in 1958 and is worn regularly in a variety of sports?
- 6 W G Grace captained England at which two sports?
- 7 Which sportsman's autobiography is called 'You Cannot Be Serious'?
- 8 Which famous sportsman lit the torch at the opening ceremony of the 1996 Olympic Games?
- 9 When Brazil won the 1994 World Cup, to which famous sportsman did they dedicate it?

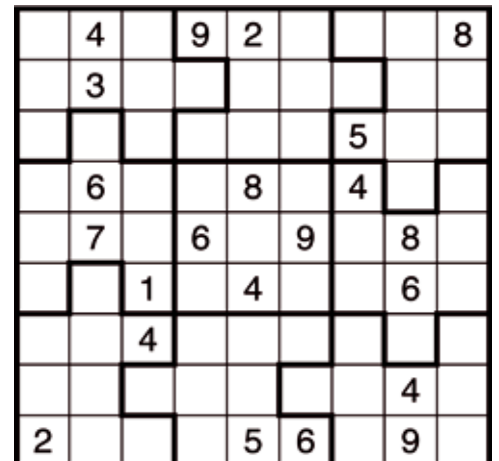
MONSTER SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9 and the letters A,B and C.



SQUIGGLY SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 12 box shape contains the numbers 1 to 9.



IN THE SHED ANSWERS ON PAGE 67



TORO STUDENT OF THE YEAR 2007 PREVIEW

Time to get up close and personal with this year's finalists

Summer. A time to relax, visit the beach, top up your tan. Well, not if your chosen profession is greenkeeping, June through to September remains the busiest time of the golfing year. The pressure is piled onto BIGGA members, as wannabe Woods and enthusiastic Els, come out of hibernation. As well as The Open and the US PGA Championship, summer months see numerous high profile Section, Regional and National BIGGA events. Well-earned "time outs" were taken by 32 student greenkeepers, as they attended the Regional Finals of the Toro Student of the Year Award 2007.

Travelling the width and breadth of the country, was BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, in search of this year's eight National Contenders. Joined by Archie Dunn, Tony Smith, Jeff Mills and Gavin Robson, from the BIGGA Board of Management, as well as Trevor Chard, John Pike, George McDonald and Robert Jackson from Toro, Ken and the rest of the judges, through much discussion and many difficult decisions, decided on the final eight to come to BIGGA HOUSE on September 17 for the Grand Final.

Entailing a further interview and the completion of a survey of Aldwark Manor GC, (evaluating nine of the holes), home of BIGGA HQ – there will be tough competition at the September final.

The amazing prize involves an eight-week trip to the USA, where, for six weeks, the University of Massachusetts will be home, as the lucky winner completes a residential Turf Management Course. The trip also includes visits to the Toro Headquarters in Minneapolis and to the GCSAA Golf Industry Show in New Orleans, in February 2008.

"This competition goes from strength to strength. The candidates are better prepared, they cope well with interviews and have a good idea what to expect in the US. It gets more and more difficult to select the final eight candidates and I do not envy the task of this year's judges," said Ken Richardson, BIGGA's Education and Training Manager.



Name: Neil Plenderleith
Age: 27
Club: Oatridge, West Lothian

Neil has recently completed his National Certificate Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management at Oatridge College. He has worked at Oatridge Golf Club during the past academic year, helping the greenkeepers with various tasks. His summer has been spent at Gleneagles doing seasonal work.

"I'm grateful to Gleneagles as well as the staff at Oatridge for the chance of a starting position with such a prestigious club. I hope to take my education to at least HCN level once I have more practical experience in the industry," said Neil.



Name: Jamie Duncan
Age: 23
Club: Brodick, Isle of Arran

Jamie spent most of his childhood on Brodick golf course having been a very keen golfer since the age of about four. Before becoming a greenkeeper, Jamie spent three years at the Club doing seasonal work.

"When I was 19 I travelled the world for a year visiting Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and America. Seeing so many amazing places has given me the ambition to see more and hopefully through my greenkeeping qualifications I will be able to work at some of these destinations," said Jamie.



Name: Lewis Birch
Age: 23
Club: Abbeydale, Sheffield

Lewis' career at Abbeydale started out as a summer job but he knew he wanted to take greenkeeping further, "I enjoy working outdoors and with the great variety of the role, I felt no other position would keep me as happy," said Lewis.

Lewis has achieved PA1, PA2, NVQ sports turf level 2 and the Technical Certificate in Sports Turf at Askham Bryan College in York. "I'm currently working towards my NVQ Sports Turf Level 3," said Lewis.



Name: Stuart Ross
Age: 33
Club: Cradoc, Powys

Stuart joined Cradoc in 2005 having previously been employed as a production planner in the steel fabrication industry. "I feel that I've finally found a career that excites me and fuels my imagination – I have found my niche," said Stuart. Stuart is always looking to learn new skills and has undertaken a manual handling course, first aid at work course and various mini digger courses.

"My hopes for the future are to continue learning about greenkeeping, progressing on to NVQ Level 3 next year and eventually become a Course Manager in my own right," said Stuart.



Name: Richard Oakley
Age: 19
Club: Erlestoke, Wiltshire

Richard has just completed his first year of NVQ Level 2 Sports Turf at Bridgewater College and has also attended a first aid and manual handling course.

Richard has been working at Erlestoke as an Assistant Greenkeeper for just over a year.



Name: Avon Bridges
Age: 26
Club: Luton Hoo Park, Bedfordshire

Avon started greenkeeping at Finchley at the age of 17. "Over the nine years that I've worked at Finchley, I've always been encouraged to learn and been given every opportunity to take on new skills. I've trained new staff members within our team of six. My efforts were rewarded in 2003 when I was given the position of Deputy Head Greenkeeper," said Avon.

"In future years I aim to continue to develop the golf course at Luton Hoo and will make it one of the south east's best course in 5-10 years time."



Name: Simon Lambert
Age: 25
Club: Seaford Head, East Sussex

Simon has worked at Seaford Head for seven years, "Since working as a greenkeeper I have learnt, achieved and given a great deal. All my training while working at the course and attending Plumpton College, has enabled me to work more confidently and efficiently in the everyday running of the golf course," said Simon.

"In the future I hope to develop my present skills, studying for my advanced apprenticeship NVQ Level 3 in Amenity Horticulture at Plumpton College."



Name: Greg Knight
Age: 22
Club: Abridge, Essex

Greg started his greenkeeping career at the age of 16, doing seasonal work at Theydon Bois, and has been at Abridge for nearly three years now.

"I am currently studying for my NVQ Level 3 at Writtle College under the guidance of my tutor, Nigel Beckford, and my Head Greenkeeper, Geoff Smith," said Greg.

"After my NVQ 3 I would like to furthermore my 'thirst' for education by continuing to study for a degree."

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The first GCSGA delegation to attend Harrogate Week

EXPERIENCE GREENKEEPING US-STYLE

If you've ever dreamt of visiting America to see how superintendents over the pond solve problems on their courses, now is your opportunity to make the dream a reality. How? – By applying to be one of the 10 greenkeepers who will jet off to Orlando in February as part of the BIGGA Delegation 2008.

Previous delegate Chris Sealey, Course Manager at Chippenham Golf Club, said: "If you want to get ahead this trip is a must. I learnt so much from the experience."

Sponsored by Bernhard and Company, during the trip you will have the chance to visit the high-profile GCSAA Golf Industry Show in Orlando for free, where new ground-breaking machinery introductions and ideas

are launched. You will also have the opportunity to attend Education Conferences and visit major golf clubs in the area, gaining an insight into golf management practices US-style.

The Delegation is open to all BIGGA greenkeeping members, and all you have to do to enter is complete the wrap-around in last month's Greenkeeper International or phone BIGGA HOUSE on: 01347 833800 to request an application form. Once you have completed your application, send it back to BIGGA House and you will be automatically entered into the second stage of the competition.

Grasp this opportunity for a really life-changing experience and to see first-hand how superintendents address agronomic issues.

CUTS BOTH WAYS

Ten US superintendents travelled to Harrogate and were blown away by their experiences of greenkeeping in the UK. Here they describe their momentous inaugural visit.

Certainly ranked as a major logistical challenge, ten superintendents from all over the US safely arrived at the same time at Manchester Airport, they then made their way to the 'quaint' town of Harrogate.

Somewhat confused with the UK road system Ken Williams said: "With steering wheels on the right and the direction of travel on the left and the numerous mazes of roundabouts I never felt completely sure where cars were coming from for the entire week. But what a welcome!"

Williams, Golf Course Superintendent at Stanford University Golf Club, recounts his heady days in Harrogate as part of the BIGGA delegation, sponsored by Bernhard and Company.

"Our exploration of the town included a visit to a couple of pubs where I was introduced to the tumultuous excitement of watching an English Premier League Football Match between Manchester United and Arsenal. At dinner we met three European greenkeepers, who became our unofficial guides for the week. They had been part of the BIGGA delegation to San Diego in 2004. Sid Arrowsmith, Master Greenkeeper runs a 54-hole complex in England, Richard McGlynn was building a course in Russia and Steven Tierney has the luck of running a course in Switzerland.

"The following day we travelled to see the major turfgrass research projects carried out by the Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI) in Bingley. We observed their research on golf turf, as well as other amenity applications such as football, rugby and cricket pitches. I now know that in England a field is somewhere you graze livestock, and a pitch is somewhere you play sport. Touring test plots with resident chemists and pathologists we learnt that Fusarium patch (*Microdochium nivale*)

is the number one disease problem in the UK, with crane fly larvae one of the biggest insect problems. Birds have been known to tear up entire fairways foraging for the numerous grubs.

“Next on the agenda was a trip to Alwoodley Golf Club in Leeds, the first course to be designed by Dr Alister MacKenzie. Our host was Nick Leaf, Club Historian and former Chairman of the Green. He shared his deep knowledge of both the renowned architect and the course. While walking all 18 holes, Nick explained the architectural principles inherent to the design. One of the most remarkable features of the course was the medieval farming furrows left in place across the fairways. These numerous rounded ridges of approximately one foot in height ran across many of the fairways, ensuring no two fairway lies were the same. What is regarded in the UK as adding interest to the game, is something we in the US would consider completely unfair!

“BTME opened its doors the following day with around 250 attending the Opening Session. Seeing different types of equipment used abroad and their differing applications was an experience. We would never need a flail strong enough to handle gorse. Educational seminars provided an insight into UK management strategies but the information related universally. One highlight for me was realising how very focused Europeans are on sustainable practices and low input methods. Initially practiced for economic reasons, this has proven sound for both environmental protection and the fight against annual meadow grass (*Poa annua*). Most of the clubs seek greens made up of the finer grasses, the fescues and bents. In that pursuit, one British greenkeeper insisted he only applied six grammes of actual nitrogen per square metre to his greens last year. Awesome.

“Harrogate Week is similar to the GCSAA event, with evenings filled with great opportunities to meet new colleagues, network and just talk turf. We had the opportunity to meet the 10 BIGGA delegates who were set to visit Anaheim this year and we made plans for us all to re-connect there.

“At dinner I had the honour of sitting across from Sir Michael Bonallack, former Secretary of the R&A, who, when persuaded, talked about his duties with the R&A, his British Amateur titles (5) and Walker Cups (9).

“The BIGGA Banquet was the climax of the show, held at the historic Majestic Hotel - it proved a great, unexpected moment of my trip. I introduced myself to an older greenkeeper I had sat next to in one of the seminars earlier in the day and, low and behold, I found out it was Walter Woods. Talk about a legend of the profession. That guy has probably forgotten more than I will ever know.”

The next day, our trip culminated in a visit to a great old links course, The Ganton Golf Club. Both Harry Vardon and Ted Ray were former professionals here and the club hosted the Walker Cup Matches in 2003. Their Course Manager, Phillip Baldock, took us around for a no-nonsense look at the links. Previously he had overseen 36 holes at Royal Portrush in Northern Ireland. The course was prepared for golf alone – no signs, no yardage markers, no flowers, no fancy monuments, no beverage carts – practice green markers were made of a simple short hook of steel. Bunkers contained the native sandy soil, which included many seashells, and weeds were not a problem as long as they did not affect play. It was a truly refreshing way of seeing a course prepared by a crew of six. Phillip said he would probably be disciplined if he ever burned in the stripes on the fairways like we do in the US. When asked how steep they construct the walls of the riveted bunker faces, he said:

“We use a very technological method, on greenside bunkers we place each piece of sod one finger back of the last piece and on fairway bunkers we use two fingers.”

Frequent greens topdressing consisted of a 70/30 mix of sand and soil.



Ken Williams at Ganton

Iron sulphate was used regularly to control moss. When asked at what rate he applied this Baldock said: “Black does not bother me, it only lasts a few days and does a world of good.”

How empowering to hear such a practical approach to golf course maintenance.

This is a week in my career I will never forget and which truly inspired me. I am now passionate in promoting BIGGA's BTME as something every Golf Superintendent must do at least once in their career and I encourage my UK counterparts to visit the US. We have a lot to learn from each other!”

Roger Stewart, Golf Course Superintendent at TPC Jasna Polana was equally enthusiastic and added: “Networking with BIGGA members and meeting people who manage courses all over Europe really opened my eyes to the differences in our management technique. Equally, there are tremendous similarities in many of the challenges we face. I must say I was impressed with both courses we visited when it comes to the conditions they produce.

“Our trip to STRI was really great because I had heard so much about their work for most of my career and was able to put much of that into perspective.

“And for the first time in my 30 plus years as a superintendent I got to see what gorse and heather really looked like. This may seem trivial to some, but it was a great experience for me.”

Dave Ward, of the Coyote Run Golf Course, feels British greenkeepers are way ahead of Americans on sustainability issues and working with restricted budgets. He said: “These two realities are now becoming vital issues at some facilities in the States, so it was great to see how they were being addressed in the UK.”

Harrogate Week 2008 takes place the third week in January – Exhibition: 22-24 January, Education: 20-24 January



News from the Chief Executive

More and more I hear of Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers that get themselves into stressful situations through their lack of management skills, or through a lack of appropriate skills in the clubhouse. Golf is undergoing a serious change with far greater financial competition between clubs than ever before. Only recently have I heard of a long established, highly regarded club that is close to insolvency, perhaps even technically there already. Drastic measures are being considered to reduce overheads but the action may be too late.

The daily life of a typical golf club now needs to be geared to the commercial world and with it the employment of commercial skills. Today's Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper needs to keep up to date with some of these skills and that is where being a member of BIGGA can help. The programme for Harrogate Week will soon be released and in it members will find an abundance of workshops and seminars designed to help them cope with the demands of the job. The competent manager can contribute so much more to the golf club than just looking after the course, and golf club committees and owners need to recognise this fact. Management that works as a team has a much greater chance of success and had this happened in the case I referred to earlier, then the club might not have found themselves in their current crisis. Getting the average golfer to understand and accept this fact is difficult, however, by looking and acting professionally and by demonstrating business competence then the Course Manager can make his mark.

I am continuing to build stronger working relationships between BIGGA and the other lead bodies in golf, in particular the R&A, the Golf Club Managers' Association, the Home Unions and the Greenkeepers Training Committee. We all need to work together for the benefit of the game and thereby avoid duplication, make better use of resources and hopefully improve standards.

While Harrogate Week is the annual focus of BIGGA's education, members should not ignore the opportunities that are available the rest of the year, both on a local and a regional basis. The Education and Development Fund together with the Ransomes Jacobsen scholarship/grant scheme, provides the funding or subsidy for a wide range of courses. If a member has a specific need then I would encourage them to contact either Sami or Rachael in the Learning and Development office at HQ, to discuss how we can help.

Once again the Association's staff will be pleased to welcome you to the BIGGA stand at Saltex. Remember though, it is Harrogate Week that provides vital funding to YOUR Association and not Saltex! I will be in attendance on the Tuesday and will be happy to discuss any points that members have.

Finally, a reminder to book your place at the National Championship sponsored by Kubota and also to submit your application for the Bernhard & Co sponsored trip to the Golf Industry Show 2008 in Orlando, both of which appeared in the August edition of Greenkeeper International.

John Pemberton



SCOTTISH – CENTRAL

First of all, a warm welcome to all our new Section members - please feel welcome to attend future events. The committee will be trying to arrange some educational events commencing in November. All info will be posted on the website, talking of which, we have all been rather busy this summer and the website activity has slowed down. We will be putting some effort into kick-starting this activity again, as the positive feedback we had when it was active indicated that it was well received by the members. Please play your part and send any news and ideas you have to the committee.

It's been a really busy time for many courses in Scotland, playing host to The Open Championship (Carnoustie), The British Ladies Open (St Andrew's Links – Old Course), The Seniors Open (Muirfield), and the Johnnie Walker Championship (Gleneagles). September will also see The Scottish Lades Senior Amateur (Glenbervie), the Ladies Home International Matches (Dunbar), and the Ladies Scottish Open (Carrick), followed by the Dunhill Links Championship (St Andrews, Carnoustie and Kingsbarns). A really fantastic year for the Golf spectators among us if you have the time. From what we've seen so far it has shown the talent that exists in our profession producing such fantastic venues in what has been a very challenging season weather wise. Congratulations to all involved.

The Autumn Tournament will be played on September 20 at The Dukes. All entries should have been processed by now, and you can check the draw on the website or by calling Andy Mellon: 01334 658914. This year's National Tournament is being held at Dundonald Links and Kilmarnock (Barassie) Golf Club. For a fee of £85 you get to play two fantastic courses with lunch both days and dinner on the first evening all included. I hope that many section members take up the opportunity to play, when it's being hosted so close to home.

I have been as busy as usual on my own Golf Tour. All the courses were in great condition and a testament to the hard work of the Greenkeeping teams' efforts. I had great days at Royal Burgess, Kirriemuir and Brechin. I was trying to keep it quiet but I also lost £4 to Andy O'Hara, Course manager at Leven, on a real Black Thursday when I also lost my trusty 7 – iron, damaged my putter and was run down by a golf buggy. Fortunately my injuries were not severe enough to stop me jetting off to Canada next month on holiday, which I'm busy setting up a schedule of course visits for. I'm pulling on all contacts to try and get some good courses. I get back the day of our Autumn Tournament and I've asked for a late tee time to try and take part. Hope to see you all there.

Your committee are keen to arrange as many events as you need, and to provide relevant learning opportunities for our members. Please give them your support and let them know what you want. The AGM is just round the corner and you'll receive an Invite in the post. It's your opportunity to come along and have a say on how things are run, and offer your services to help if you can. All the best.

*Secretary: Andy Mellon
Chairman: Derek Scott*

www.biggacentralsection.org.uk 01334 658914

Around the Green



SCOTLAND – EAST

I am writing this report at home on Sunday, August 5, after a week of dry but windy weather. However the rain has returned with a vengeance and more is forecast for the week ahead rendering irrigation systems redundant.

The Open at Carnoustie this year, drew huge praise for the condition of the course from all in attendance. This was just reward for all the hard work put in by John Philp and his team, and statements like "Best Open Course preparation ever" were not wide of the mark. On a personal note I would like to thank everyone who contacted me after seeing my response to John Huggan's ill-informed article in 'Scotland on Sunday' on the Sunday prior to the Open.

In the week after the Open the seniors had their turn, with the main event being held at Muirfield. The Qualifier's for this event were held at the following venues, Dunbar, North Berwick West and the relatively new Links at Craighielaw. I understand all courses were in excellent condition and were a credit to their respective Greenkeeping teams.

I am sure everyone will join me in congratulating Ryan McCulloch

(Goswick) and his wife Louise who are celebrating the safe arrival of Spencer, a brother and playmate for Leo.

On a sad note I have to report the death of Tom Baillie, the former Head Greenkeeper at Dalmahoy. In all he spent 40 years working on the courses at Dalmahoy, and was in charge for the first major tournament to be held there prior to his retirement in 1991. Our deepest sympathies are extended to his family at this sad time.

Finally, our congratulations must go to former Greenkeeper John Gallagher Jnr, who won the Scottish Amateur Championship on Saturday, August 4 over the testing links of Old Prestwick. His triumph is all the more commendable when you consider he has hardly played this year due to a hairline fracture to a bone in his wrist!

*Until next month
Mike Dooner*



SCOTLAND – NORTH

The year is rolling by at an alarming speed. The nights are getting dark already. It seems like only yesterday that we were getting ready for the new season.

I don't think anybody has escaped the wet weather this year; it's been a test for all courses to keep them dry and in play. We have had more than half our annual rainfall in three months here on the east coast, never seen this much rain in May, June, July before or links courses so green. Nevermind, we could have been caught up in the floods that hit the midlands in August, which must have been a nightmare scenario for everybody down there.

The Open at Carnoustie was fantastic. You couldn't script a better finish and a homegrown winner for a change. That 18th hole at Carnoustie must be the hardest finishing hole in golf. I have to say that the condition of the golf course was awesome with superb greens and surround areas and magnificent fairways, which were so tight they looked like they were cut at greens height. I think they have laid the ghost of '99 to rest this time but in saying that the condition then was equally as good but nobody talked about it, which was a shame. I think John has raised the bar for all of us to try and match with regards to course set up and conditioning. The attention to detail all over the course was incredible and is a credit to John and his team.

The Autumn Meeting is at Fortrose & Rosemarkie GC on September 20, so let's have a good turnout for this one and support Kevin Fowler and his boys. This is great course on the Black Isle and one, which everyone will enjoy.

The Walker Cup match between Britain and Ireland is at Royal County Down GC in early September. Hopefully we will spank the yanks this time and win back the cup. County Down is a majestic golf course and is in mint condition. I was lucky enough to play it in the spring with Alan Strachan (Course Manager) and it was awesome. The scenery around that area is fantastic with the mountains of Mournes looking down on you all the way round.

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Around the Green

John Merchant, who is an Assistant Greenkeeper at Royal Aberdeen, is going to be a dad in the wintertime, his girlfriend Emma is expecting in mid December. Good luck to you both with the impending arrival. Not much else from me folks.

Robert Patterson
Royal Aberdeen GC



NORTHERN – NORTH EAST

Well only a little bit of news this month, although nothing has been in the past couple of magazines. Firstly, people on the move. As the Cleveland Section had in last month's news, Head Greenkeeper, Glen Baxter of South Shields GC, has now left the profession after working there for 23 years and is now working for Rigby Taylor Ltd covering the north east area. I'm sure you all will meet him at some point, anyway, best of luck Glen.

Two more greenkeepers have also moved, one is former Head Greenkeeper, Ian Hutton, of Garesfield GC, and James Leighton, formerly Assistant Greenkeeper at Hexham, who has moved to Slaley Hall GC.

Other news is that a golf club in our Section has been fined quite a sum of money for not complying with the H&S regulations, this news came via the Secretaries' magazine, so if any of you have not got the necessary paperwork I would advise you to get on the BIGGA website and look up the new Safety Management System as there is lots of information, such as the risk assessments, that are available for you to download.

Jimmy Richardson



NORTHERN – NORTH WEST

Everyone must be on holiday or clearing up from the floods, as I have not had any news this month. I have not had any names yet for the Tournament at Silloth, contact me if you wish to go.

The annual Stewards' Match will be played at Disley GC in October and we will need a team to represent the north west Section, it's a sponsored day so it will not cost you a penny, if you fancy it please contact Bert Cross. Well that's all for now,

if anyone needs any help or advice please contact the Secretary, Bert Cross on: 0151 7245412 or myself, Chris Sheehan on: 0151 2894625 my email is: jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk

Chris Sheehan



MIDLAND – EAST MIDLAND

I start this month's column with the results of our five a side football friendly that took place at Loughborough College on June 5. Although

there was not a great turn out we decided on a young versus old boy match, which was eventually won 20-19 by the old boys with Kevin Kinzer scoring the all-important winning goal.

The summer golf tournament took place at Chevin GC on July 18 and the following results were Handicaps 0-14: 1. A Porter, 43pts; 2. C Brown, 37pts; 3. A Marsh, 34pts. Handicap 15-28: 1. A Colton, 26pts; 2. A De Wet, 26pts; 3. N Nottingham, 26pts. The Rep's prize was won by S Banks with 34pts. The Longest Drive for Greenkeepers was won by D James and the Nearest Pin, D J Rodgers. The Longest Drive for Rep's was won by S Banks and the Nearest Pin, J Robson.

Dan Rodgers



MIDLAND – EAST OF ENGLAND

It's official! www.eastofenglandbigga.com – we are now online! The website is still in it's infancy (acorns into oaks and all that), but I hope you will use it and enjoy it. My thanks for the site go to Gary Salisbury for all his hard work. It is greatly appreciated.

I could talk about the weather, but what can you say? The weather makes us what we are – a very tough breed able to cope well in such conditions, providing a testament to the skill and determination of all greenkeepers. Things can only get better!

Now onto the golf. Lincoln GC was the venue for this 3rd round qualifier for the BIGGA National Tournament. A touch on the damp side (we didn't realise just how many water features could be on one course), but all credit to Ade and the lads, the course was in excellent condition. Our sincere thanks to Nigel and Toro for the sponsorship. The results were as follows: 1. Russ Moody; 2. Jack Fairman; 3. Steve Beverley. Longest Drive - Rob Welford; Nearest the Pin - Rob Bemment; Trade Prize - Tito Arana.

The final round of qualification for the National Tournament was held at Oundle Golf Club with Collier Turf Care sponsoring the day - a big thank you to Mark and Roger. A big thank you also to Oundle Golf Club who made us very welcome. I was told the course was quite tight! I didn't seem to notice, but I think a few fishermen on the lake did. Results were as follows: 1. Graham MacDonald; 2. Scott Pritchett; 3. Dave Mawford; 4. Bruce Hicks; Nearest the Pin - Steve Hopkins; Longest Drive - Carl Chamberlain; Trade Prize - Carl Chamberlain.

The three qualifiers for the National Championship are: G. MacDonald, B Robinson and S Bosett. Well done lads and good luck in Scotland.

Finally I would like to say well done to Dave Coupland (formerly of Boston Golf Club). For those who don't know, Dave qualified for the British Open. Quite an achievement, especially with Bruce as your mentor. Seriously, well done Dave, we were all cheering for you and hope your career goes from strength to strength.

Allan Walker