



MIDLAND – BERKS/BUCKS AND OXON

August, and it seems the cousin of El Nino has paid us a visit in Britain with the result that we have one of the wettest summers on record. This is in sharp contrast to last summer which was one of its driest and hottest. No sooner had we all predicted a heat wave summer this year with bets on record temperatures for our new Spanish climate, then the heavens opened with rising waters forcing dozens from their homes as the surge from Britain's worst floods in 60 years pushed through various parts of county and southern England.

There will always be a debate on whether climate change or global warming is to blame or just maybe Zeus the Greek rain god and cloud-gatherer sent us his wrath and fury which has affected so many people up and down the country.

On Wednesday, October 31, the Section are hosting an educational seminar at Newbury & Crookham GC. The line up for speakers at this event will be Gerry Byrne from the K Club in Ireland, who has played host to the 2006 Ryder Cup and many Smurfit European Opens.

David MacIndoe, from Killarney Golf & Fishing Club, who has hosted the Irish Open and Curtis Cup, Ian McMillan, from Walton Heath GC, who has hosted the US Open Qualifiers, and Technical Director Mark Hunt, from Headland Amenity - will make the line-up for a truly memorable day in Berkshire. Numbers for the day are limited to a maximum of 120 and your support for this amazing line-up of individuals who will be sharing greenkeeping knowledge and their experiences. So please get your entry forms in early to avoid disappointment.

Other events to be held this year will be The Clay Pigeon Shoot to be held on October 18 at West London Shooting Targets, which is located adjacent to RAF Northolt just off the M40 and M25.

Head of shooting for the day will be Jon Beck and we are looking for individuals who have never tried this sport or even lifted a shotgun before. You will be made most welcome by the qualified instructors on site who will guide you through this challenging and addictive sport which can give first timer's a real buzz. For more details Jon can be contacted on: 0790 999 7636.

The next event will be the BB&O Invitational on September 26 at Newbury & Crookham GC and hopefully by the time you are reading this your entry forms will be well on the way back to Dean Jones, who will be posting your tee time on the section website, www.bbo-greenkeepers.co.uk

Now that September is here, look out for the Chelsea chariots as the school runs start up after the holidays and let's hope the waters have started to recede and a sense of normality can return for all those affected by the recent flooding.

Mark Day
mark.day@tacitgolf.com



MIDLAND – MID ANGLIA

Hello chaps, long time no scribe, for which I must apologise - I was moving house and it seems like we are cutting forever at the moment.

I know we don't get the same volume of traffic that some of you guys have, but my grass doesn't stop growing because we haven't got a lot of golf.

I am writing this article just before the Summer Competition at Welwyn Garden City GC, so the results will be in the next issue.

Just to remind you all that the Autumn Competition will be held at Berkhamsted GC on October 17 and the AGM will follow the golf. The committee is hoping to get a good turn-out as previous meetings have been a bit poor.

Another date for your diaries is December 6, this will be the Christmas Texas Scramble and will be held at South Beds GC. Please make sure your entries are in early to avoid disappointment as this one always fills up very quickly.

My final note this month is to congratulate Darren Mugford and his wife for the arrival of their baby daughter, best wishes from the Mid Anglia section.

If anyone would like to contribute to this article then please contact me on: 07971 198173.

That's all for now folks, see you next month.

Steve Mason



SOUTH EAST – SURREY

Sunday, August 5. It was my birthday on August 2 and I have reached

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Around the Green

that glorious age that is the same as Chris Rudkin. I have, in a past edition, been a little rude about Chris but I know that you all would say that we both look much younger than our years, I must admit that deep inside that Victor Meldrew syndrome is gradually growing and by next year, I fear, we may both be eligible to appear on that TV programme "Grumpy Old Men". But enough of that, for now I will continue to put on a cheerful smile, tighten my belt, comb my hair, wipe my nose and as before greet you all with a cheery hello.

The entry for the McMillan Tankard competition at Sunningdale GC was full to bursting and on a hot and sunny day, July 30, some 60 Surrey members, after practicing on the range, confidently set off to do battle with Sunningdale's New Course which had recently been used as a qualifier for the Open. It was, as usual, in fabulous condition and we thank Murray Long and his team for all their very successful efforts. It was, however, more testing than in previous years and the result shows that only some of the single figure handicappers were able to do justice to a course that had been set up for a more professional standard of golfer. Darren Woodward won the Tankard and a place in the National Tournament. Jason Hunt came second, with Mo Bah third and Tony Brennan fourth. The other qualifier in the higher division was Barry Cannon. Tom Spurgeon was Nearest the Pin and the longest drive was won by Mo Bah. Our beloved Ex-Chairman, Anthony (Kojak) Freeman took the Longest Walk. Jim Russell presented the prizes on behalf of the sponsors, Grass Roots and Billy McMillan presented the Tankard on behalf of his dad. Many thanks to Sunningdale's artisans for cooking the tasty alfresco burgers, sausages and chicken and selling us drinks at prices we wish we could find in all local pubs and bars. We all thank Sunningdale GC for the pleasure of once again playing at their superb golf club.

I am sorry to announce the death of Dave Town, the mechanic at St George's Hill GC. Chris Gosden, the Course Manager, said that after 25 years at the Club Dave would be difficult to replace, both as a great mechanic and a really good friend to all the greenkeepers at the club.

Brian Willmott



SOUTH EAST – KENT

It's been that long since we last saw rain in this neck of the woods, I'm beginning to think I should live in a tent and ride a camel to work! Surely this seemingly endless heatwave has to end soon. Somebody who has had the right idea to stay out of the heat on his golf course and spend longer in an air conditioned college classroom is Mike Emptage of St. Augustines Golf Club. Special congratulations to Mike as he has been studying at Hadlow College and has been nominated to represent the South East region in the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year award. Your committee are arranging an autumn golfing event at a top venue for late September/ early October. More specific details shall be posted on the website as soon as the host course has confirmed it's availability. Entry forms can also be downloaded from the website so please remember to check it regularly.

Another event awaiting a confirmed date is our football match against Essex Section. Rumour has it that the Kent team has had enough of

their current goalkeeper despite several heroic moments in the games that we have played so far and he is to be put into a defensive position. All I can say is the new guy had better be good! The game will be played at the Corinthians ground which is close to Brands Hatch some time in October.

Our winter educational programme is all but completed and details of the seminars to be held at Hadlow College in Tonbridge shall be posted on the website. There shall be some very good speakers talking about topical subjects. These are all completely free of charge and an excellent way to spend a winters day.

Lastly, we are still on the lookout for clubs anywhere in Kent to fill a couple of spaces we have left on next year's fixture list. So please consider accommodating us and if you can then, again, you can contact us via the website.

That's it for this month guys.

Keep Cool!

Rob Holland



SOUTH EAST – ESSEX

It's a very short one this month no news as such to report, only that the Golf Day at Colchester has gone by and a report of that will be in my next news report.

The next event for your diary is the Winter Tournament at North Weald GC, on September 27, early entries, as always, will be appreciated.

Move news - after many years at Burnham-on-Crouch GC, Head Greenkeeper, Paul Copsey, has decided to move on to pastures new outside of the golf industry, although not out of the grounds care business altogether, I believe he is going into landscaping.

Also, after 14 years at Thorpe Hall GC, 10 of which have been as head man, John Sinclair, Course Manager, has decided to move back to his native Scotland at the end of the year, leaving behind a fine golf course that he has lovingly nurtured through thick and thin over the years. His Deputy, Ian Gordon, is also leaving to take on the post of Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager at Ballards Gore Golf & Country Club.

Mark Day (Tacit) has just had a bit of scare, while on his rounds up in North Norfolk, he felt unwell and went to see a doctor, who diagnosed a twisted hernia. He was immediately rushed into hospital and operated on. He is recovering well and has now returned to work though on light duties, hopefully we will see him at the next golf days though I believe he has to stay away from the sticks for the next few months. Anyone who has any news for inclusion in the "Around the Green" section can email me: highwoods.photographic@virgin.net or call me on: 01206 852353.

Arnold Phipps-Jones www.essexbigga.co.uk



SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES – SOUTH WEST



88mms of rain fell on “Wet Friday” (July 20) at Minchinhampton. This figure rose to 108mm at Cirencester, nearly 120mm in Cheltenham, and peaked around Worcester at 143mm. Happily I was on holiday in Italy where there was wall to wall sunshine, so there was nothing for it but to send a postcard along the lines of “Having a lovely time, and hope Captain’s Day went with a splash”. Apparently it did. I might just pay tribute to our staff who all turned in on the Saturday morning and got the courses ready for Captain’s Day by bringing the bunkers back from the dead. I really hope that no member’s homes were badly flooded, and all the courses have recovered.

The Summer Tournament was played under much better conditions at Cumberwell Park the following week. We were very fortunate to play on the new nine holes, and although I didn’t play myself, I was told that the new holes were in fine condition, and would look really special once fully matured. Thanks very much to Cumberwell for hosting this big day, which included qualifying for the National Championship. This prize, which alternates between gross and net scores, was decided on gross this year and allows the winner an expenses paid trip to participate in the National Championship later in the autumn. As the scores show, this was very keenly contested: 1. John Jarvis, Lansdown GC, 74 – 7 – 67; 2. Paul Gibson, Forest Hills GC, 74 – 70; 3. Roger Neale, Taunton & Pickering GC, 79 – 6 - 73. National Tournament Qualifier - Richard Carter, Lansdown GC, Gross 73.

Many thanks to Marc Haring, not only for the preparation of the course, but also for hosting the inaugural “Haring Quiz Night” afterwards. This was tremendous fun, and also very closely contested by teams of mainly three. The “Happy Hackers” team won by some distance – not necessarily because they knew more answers than the rest of us, but there were four of them! Great fun – notably I had to get Chris Sealey in an armlock to write “Chippenham” for the answer to the overhead photo of a Wiltshire town (he later spotted his own house when he realised where it was), and no, neither of us could name all four Teletubbies. Thanks very much Marc, and Andy Parker for helping – we must do it again some time.

There was a slight improvement for “McClaren” Vincent at St.Pierre in the match vs the Welsh Section. Not quite good enough to win however, but at least 3-and-a-half – 2-and-a-half wasn’t a complete whitewash. The Old Course was in very good condition, with two new greens part way under construction at the 8th & 9th. Robin Greaves and I arrived a little late on the 1st tee to see our opponents completing their warm-up schedules – “Scratch and Ten handicap” they proudly announced – Robin

and I both had the same thoughts “shafting – good - and us” but actually it was a close game and could have gone either way.

Thanks very to St Pierre for hosting yet again, and to Stuart Wood and the team for the superb presentation of the course. I’ll just mention Paul Garlands round of five birdies and two bogies, which considering the density of the rough and the height of the trees, was outstanding.

Finally, on Saturday, August 4, Long Ashton GC hosted a Testimonial Tournament to recognise the retirement of Ivor Scoones and his huge contribution to the Club. Having joined Long Ashton in 1964, Ivor became Head Greenkeeper in 1965 until the present time. He was also a past National Chairman of both the BGGGA, and later BIGGA. The Section Committee entered a team but unfortunately Chris Sealey injured his back changing holes at Chippenham early that morning, and was unable to play. (Do I detect a Health & Safety issue? Defective equipment? Inappropriate or insufficient training? Greens too hard and need closing for safety? Watch this space). It was a wonderful day at Long Ashton where the greens were perfect, (and hole changing carried out in complete safety). It was marvellous to see so many of the Long Ashton staff, past and present, attend to pay tribute to Ivor. Also Jack and Billy McMillan representing BIGGA. Ivor was presented with an engraved watch, a cheque, several birthday presents, and an Honorary Membership of the club. The evening finished with cake and champagne, which was a fitting curtain to his long career.

Look forward to seeing you all at Minchinhampton on October 11th for the AGM.

Paul Worster paulw@mgcnew.co.uk

SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES – SOUTH COAST



It’s holiday time and at last a bit of sun has appeared! Being hols time there is nothing to report on the golf competition side but just to remind you our next Golf Day is the Autumn Tournament to be held at North Hants GC, on October 23. If you want to attend this or any of our Golf Days please contact Chris Sturgess on: 0777 313 8409 or send a cheque to Chris direct at his home address: 31 Bay Rd, Sholing, Southampton SO19 8EZ.

Chris Bitten has started the process of planning the South Coast Seminar for 2008. It must be emphasised that it is your seminar so you must inform us of what you would like on the agenda. One possible angle is to really place an emphasis on education, a sort of hands on approach rather than the usual conference style event. For example: small classes could be organised on the following topics: soil science, weed identification, irrigation in practice, the golf course and the environment etc.

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NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

When you join you are automatically given membership of one of the 27 sections around the country. As an active member you can attend golf days and other social events on a regular basis enabling you to network amongst others in the industry. Look at the 'Around the Green' section for contact details.

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ABOVE: Greenkeeper International magazine
LEFT: The BIGGA website

Around the Green

These subjects are just off the top of my head and the idea is that the membership (that's you!) tells us that subjects and areas that you would like included. The aim would be to have an informal learning environment and a relaxed atmosphere to enhance learning.

So, what do you think? A good idea or would you prefer the more formal conference which has been very successful? Maybe a change would help to maintain this event continuing its usual success. Please let Chris Bitten know your thoughts on: 07796 887633 or email: chrisbitten@btinternet.com.

Those of you have been away on holiday, I hope that you had a great time and I will talk to you again in October.

Joe Crawley
07721 389200



SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES – SOUTH WALES

Hi everybody. I hope the waterproofs are holding out, did anyone spot the deliberate spelling mistakes in last months report. If you did then I was only testing you.

On with my first report and it's Trefloyne GC near Tenby that saw 14 teams compete for the Scott's Management Trophy. We would like to thank the management for the courtesy of the course, the inside staff for the warm welcome and fine food and the greenkeeping team for the excellent condition of the course, Mr John Noyce from Scott's for the prizes and sponsoring the day. The 1st prize went to Pyle and Kenfig GC with 73pts, Paul Johnson (Deputy Course Manager) played with his secretary, greens chairman and captain and they received £250 off Scott's vouchers, leather holdalls, baseball caps and some golf ball's, they also get the pleasure of hosting the tournament next year. In 2nd place we had our Chairman, Kerry Jones, and his team, in 3rd place were last years winners Trefloyne and in 4th place Julian BJ from Dinas Powis.

I would just like to welcome Paul Johnson to Wales, he hales from Hankley Common GC in Surrey and has been at Pyle and Kenfig since May 2006. Welcome Paul, hope to see more of you in the future.

My next report is from Chepstow and St Pierre Resort where we had our annual clash with the South West, Scott's once again provided us with the prizes many thanks once again from us all. Our team shirts were provided by our very own James Rees (InTurf), Thank you James. The weather was fab and it was made even better with a win for the South

Wales boyos by three and a half, two and a half, the prizes for nearest the pin and longest drive were as follows: Nearest pin, 13th Rich Louisson, Cirencester; Nearest pin, 3rd Paul Garford, Lansdown; Longest Drive, 14th Paul Garford, Lansdown. Longest Drive, 9th Rhys McDouagh, Llanwern - one for the Welsh, well done Rhys! I would like to thank St Pierre Resort for their hospitality and all of you for turning up.

Our next Section fixture is at Inco on September 27 v A.G.C.S 12.30 kick off, so if your called upon please try and turn up.

That is about it from me (thank god for that I hear you say) just a few more mentions, Jane Jones our Regional Administrator for all her continued hard work, thanks Jane hope you are well and to see you soon.

The last thank you is a personal one to my team at the Grove, Dean, Dave T, Dave M, Neil, Colin and young Scott for their patience and hard work over the last few difficult months. Thank you boys.

Any news contact me on: henry@henrystead.wandaoo.co.uk

All the best
Henry Stead

BIGGA's Regional Administrators



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NORTHERN & MIDLAND
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Jane Jones
SOUTH WEST & WALES
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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

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Letters

25 YEARS SERVICE

Stewart Fotheringham has entered his 25th year of service at Shiskine Golf Club.

Stewart came to work at the course as a trainee and studied at Elmwood College. He remembers his first tasks on the course as raking the chipping stones outside the clubhouse, hand shearing the burns and collecting the many feathers off the fairways. He has put a lot into greenkeeping on the island, always willing to help other clubs with various maintenance tasks and will give you good advice when you need it. He is still as enthusiastic now as the day he started, with a positive outlook on all tasks he tackles.



This past year has seen him oversee the re-building of three bunkers, levelling of tees, encouraging the rough to add a greater challenge and give better definition to the fairways and receive the regular comments of 'the course is getting better each year' from the annual visiting members.

Stewart says that he has no immediate plans to retire and at only 40 there is plenty of years in him yet!

The special occasion was celebrated with the greenkeepers on the island, 11 present from five clubs, past greenkeepers and staff, gathering for a surprise lunch, that for once, left Stewart speechless.

*Many thanks
Kenny Gilroy*

CARNOUSTIE

I am dropping a line to thank the BIGGA staff for all their hard work at The Open Championship, it is only when you go to these events that you become aware of all the work the staff do for us. I really enjoyed The Open.

Thank you

*John Mitchell, Deputy Course Manager
Perranporth GC*

THE OPEN

Just a quick note to pass on my thanks for all your help at the Open. It was good to catch up with everyone for the few days I was there. Thanks to Rachael and Melissa for all their help, and also to Scott. The organisation was superb and great credit to everyone involved is due.

It's good to know BIGGA is in such good hands with all the dedication by those involved.

*Regards
Stuart Greenwood
Course Superintendent
North Berwick*

OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

Can I start off by saying what a great experience The Open was. I enjoyed every moment from beginning to end, and with an Irish winner, it just made it better!

I also wanted to say how well run the Support Team was. Even before the event, letters were sent out with really useful advice on what to bring, what to expect and what was expected of us. All of this was really helpful.

As it was my first time meeting BIGGA representatives in person, I must say I found everyone very approachable and down to earth. This really added to my enjoyment of the event.

*David Byrne
Assistant Course Superintendent, St. Helens Bay Golf Resort*

THANK YOU

I would like to extend a big thank you to BIGGA and Ransomes Jacobsen for funding my trip to the United States to take part in the Ohio State international Intern Program. I have been at the Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte North Carolina for a period of four months now and have already had some excellent experiences.

I worked on the preparation during the Wachovia Championship at Quail Hollow in May and have also worked on the preparation for the Memorial tournament at Muirfield Village, Ohio in May. I have already learnt so much from being here for such a short time, that I would like to write a more in depth article about my experiences for your readers before the next Wachovia Championship.

I would like to thank David Withers from Ransomes Jacobsen, and John Pemberton from BIGGA, for their kind support and help in making this experience happen.

*Yours sincerely
Tom Granite, Quail Hollow Club*

BIGGA HQ RETIREMENT



On behalf of the GTC Board and technical committee members I would like to wish our friend and colleague Ken Richardson (BIGGA Education and Training Manager), a healthy and long retirement.

Ken and I have worked very closely for the past 13 years (how time flies – sorry for the RAF pun!)

I can say he has always been very professional and supportive in all our work to promote the education and training of greenkeepers.

Thanks Ken, we will miss you!

*David F Golding
GTC Education Director*



In the Shed

ANSWERS

CROSSWORD

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QUICK NINE HOLE QUIZ

- 1 Pele
- 2 Liz McColgan
- 3 Nike
- 4 O J Simpson
- 5 Lycra
- 6 Cricket and Bowls
- 7 John McEnroe
- 8 Muhammed Ali
- 9 Ayrton Senna

MONSTER SUDOKU

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SQUIGGLY SUDOKU

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