



For our tournaments this year we have a change of format. A banner will be placed on the 1st tee and then moved to the 18th green, with details of our Section sponsors. We also have a new backdrop to our prize table. The new look competitions this year are sponsored by the following companies: Advanta, Avoncrop Amenity Products, Bailey's of Norfolk Ltd, Banks Amenity Products Ltd, Blade Amenity, CMW Equipment Ltd, Collier Turf Care, Ernest Doe & Sons Ltd, GM Amenity, Grassform Ltd, Headland Amenity Products, LiquiTec, Prime Irrigation Ltd, Ransomes Jacobsen, Rain Bird, Rigby Taylor Ltd, Scotts, Syngenta, P. Tuckwell Ltd (John Deere), Vitax, Writtle College - We are very grateful for their support. Details and links to all our sponsors can be found on the website along with links to other interesting sites.

Education: We have some good offers, so please get in touch with Paul O'Kane if you need anything to do with staff training. He can get you some good deals and we have a wide variety of courses to choose from.

Next month, I will have the results of our first event the Spring Stableford at Upton Golf Club.

Don't forget to enter the next event as early as possible it is at Warley Park Golf Club, on Wednesday, June 25. Details of how to get there and starting times will be posted on the website, soon after the closing date.

I have updated the website and will continue to do so, but still need photos and information from you guys, so any news please call or email me. Contact me at essexbigga@talktalk.net or: 01206-852.353/07764862337.

Arnold Phipps-Jones
Press Officer



SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGION - SOUTH COAST

Congratulations and well done to Graham Bungay, of Wellow GC; Rob Crouch, of New Forest Farm Machinery, and Ian Noble, of Moors Valley GC. All three were successful in completing the London Marathon - speaking to Ian at our first golf tournament he completed his run in four hours two mins and 36 secs and ran for the Prostate Cancer Charity raising over £700. A fabulous performance guys! If you know of anyone else in the Section who's had a great achievement or has good information for Around the Green especially in educational matters then please contact me on the number below.

Our first golf meeting was held at Arlesford GC, on May 1. This was our Spring Tournament and also a qualifier for the National Championship. The Spring Tournament is also our memorial event for Colin White, who passed away just over three years ago. As usual it was a pleasure to welcome as guests, Colin's mother, Jill Francis and Gilly Francis (Colin's Stepfather), also Colin's brother, Robert White, and his wife Louise. We always remember Colin as a very cheerful and helpful personality. Without fail when we talk about Colin and recall the stories we end up with a smile. We will always remember Colin.

We had a good turn out for the day, with 40 for golf and evening dinner. The weather did deal some showers but overall the conditions were good and the day's golf was completed with blue skies above. The Section and the Committee offer great thanks to Arlesford GC for courtesy of the golf course and their kind hospitality. Much respect goes to Course Manager, Steve Privett, and his team for presenting and producing excellent greens and a good looking golf course. The feedback from the players was very positive. It was great to see Steve's team playing in the tournament after a good morning's work in preparation of the course.

The sponsors for the day were Avoncrop Amenity Products and Vitax Ltd. Thank you to both companies, your support is very much appreciated by the Section. Both companies produced a very high standard prize table.

After dinner, within the presentations, Chris Briggs, made an excellent speech in remembrance of Colin. Chris mentioned that he has recently made contact with greenkeepers within the Section and was very pleased to hear that Colin is still remembered.

The results were as follows: Division 1.1 Brian Forder, 50 pts; 1.2 Tony Gadd, 47 pts. Division 2.1 Brian Pitman, 52pts (countback); 2.2 Chris Bitten, 52 pts. Division 3.1 Ben Goodyear, 57 pts; 3.2 Adam Brimson, 47 pts. Nearest The Pin - Brian Pitman, Longest Drive - Ryan Griffin. Also a special mention for Derek Cunliffe, who made a great score but could not win the main prize as he is now working for Rigby Taylor, so cannot qualify (welcome to the Club Derek). The overall winner was a very happy Ben Goodyear and Jill Francis presented the Chalky White Trophy to Ben and then thanked us for inviting them and remembering Colin. Jill also made a presentation to Steve Privett in thanks for the presentation and preparation of the golf course. Jill recalls Colin always saying that when a sportsman lost they blamed the course/ground conditions and when they won they praised themselves and the grounds managers were never thanked. To complete an excellent day, Gilly Francis thanked all of us for inviting them as guests and also did a bit of stand up comedy, which was received very well. He finished by saying that people being together is essential especially in this day and age of TV and home entertainment and that it is a credit that the section regularly gets together.

The next event is the Summer Tournament, at Burley GC, on July 10. This is an invitation where a guest/golfer from your golf club can join in. The cost is £21, please send your cheques to Kevan Glass at the following address: Apartment 1, Forge Side Court, Lepe Road, Langley, Southampton SO45 1SS (mobile 07859 053054: email: glassy2003@hotmail.com).

Joe Crawley 0781 684 9942
joe.crawley@vitax.co.uk



DEVON AND CORNWALL

Not much to report this month, April was a bit cold down in the South West with several nights' frost and then an easterly wind which has made things a bit late down here, but things are picking up nicely now.

Some good news to report, Keith Kemp W. Cornwall and his family whose



Around the Green

baby son, Jack, had been unwell recently has now recovered. Congratulations to Mark Downing who not so long ago passed NVQ Level 2.

Our summer meeting is going to be held at Lanhydrock on Wednesday, July 23, where I understand there will be a match between Devon & Cornwall which I suspect will be fiercely contested! There will be Captains appointed for each team who will have a big say in who plays, so looking forward to that. Our winter meeting venues have pretty much been sorted for the coming winter, I will let you know them next month.

Well that's it for this month. As usual any news you wish me to pass on email me at Greenwayjrc@aol.com or phone 07764 224582.

Jerry Cole



SOUTH WEST

Just back from hols in France so apologies for a short bulletin with mainly rubbish points – pretty much as usual then.

The course at Clevedon was in its normal good order for our Spring Tournament, and well done to all those who turned out at this busy time. Yet again, I managed to be double-booked with my holiday so couldn't actually play, but it was nice to get down there and see everyone tee-off. Okay there were some pretty rubbish shots actually, but I'm far too polite to mention any names! Thanks very much to Clevedon for their hospitality and to Barry Reeves and the team for preparing the course. Congratulations to Tim Morgan for the best score of the day playing off 6.

The full result: 1. Tim Morgan, Defence Academy, Shrivensham, 36pts; 2. John Batchelor, Long Ashton, 34 pts; 3. Roger Neale (The Ravishing One), 33pts. Worthy of a mention – Tom Wright, Long Ashton, 34 pts, but not eligible for the prizes.

Grateful thanks to Peter Hampton, of Bernhards, for rounding off the day with a fascinating insight into the ins and outs of reel grinding, and what happens if you don't. And finally thanks to Adam Matthews for helping with the cards and the starting.

Latest news from the Region – The November seminar is confirmed as November 20 at Cannington College, and will feature the "Disturbance Theory".

Some employers may not be aware of the Government's "Train to Gain" initiative. In a nutshell, this is aimed at assisting unqualified workers to gain qualifications (most commonly NVQ 2 in their chosen profession) by sponsoring all of the costs. More detail available on the gov.uk website.

The Section STRI Information Day as mentioned last month is confirmed for June 18 at Chippenham Golf Club. Starting at 2pm, John Lockyer and Andy Cole will lead delegates out onto the course, and give presentations on such subjects as the introduction of finer grasses, use of wetting agents, growing in new greens, general maintenance etc – in short, something for

everyone. The day should finish around 6pm and afternoon tea is provided. An invitation to greenstaff and club officials should have been received by your secretary via email, but check out the Education Board on the BIGGA website for any last-minute info. This day is completely free of charge, but please book your place to assist with the catering and organisation.

I should mention and thank our Patronage Partners for their sponsorship, which, among other things, keeps the costs of the meetings to a minimum. I recently gave a talk on the environment to South Wales BIGGA and IOG at Chepstow racecourse. Chepstow has a very undulating track and is unusual for having a dead straight mile. I know this because I made the mistake of parking near the four furlong marker, and had a bloody long walk to the pavilion with my computer and projector. The race jumps are made of birch, and are refitted every year with about 5000 bundles of birch twigs. (The old bundles incidentally, are sold on second-hand to other smaller racecourses.) Spare a thought for the hard-pressed grounds-team - if one jump has to be moved for any reason – they all do, in order to maintain the correct stride. The maintenance consists of vertidrain aeration and overseeding with dwarf rye. The "going" is no longer determined by a couple of elderly bowler-hatted gentlemen strolling around, but by a high-tech compactionometer which measures the hardness of the ground and the shear factor of the turf. Unfortunately it didn't quite work properly while we were there, so we had to rely on the managers' word.

We had a very interesting tour of the complex and facilities including the weighing room, the medical centre, and the jockeys changing rooms and baths. I say baths – this consisted of a couple of huge hydrotherapy type hot-tubs capable of holding an entire rugby team and you could easily imagine Frankie Dettori being held under by half a dozen burly rivals until he submitted. There is a doctor and medical team on call throughout the race-meeting, and the medical facilities included an operating theatre which could cope with pretty well anything, including dealing with injuries and accidents etc, (and quite possibly in-growing toenails and giving birth).

I was interested to note that the Stewards and Clerk of the Course are in session for the entire race meeting. If any jockey is found to have transgressed the rules in any way – he is instantly banned from taking any further part. I really enjoyed the talk, and thanks to all those who turned up to support it.

It was very disappointing to have to cancel the Greenkeeper Amateur due to poor uptake. Minchinhampton Old Course is happy to rearrange at another time, and offer to host again next year. If anyone has any thoughts on alternative timings, please give me a call. The committee is considering a radical overhaul of the fixtures to reflect the changes in the industry. Any thoughts would be most welcome – this is, after all, your Section.

Finally, Wayne Vincent and Paul Garland would appreciate contact from anyone interested in playing for the Section team regardless of handicap or job status. A round of golf in good company followed by a meal, and all for a tenner is good value in anyone's book, and with St Pierre - August 6, and Remedy Oak – August 27 coming up, the courses certainly measure up too. So give Wayne a call on 07958630590.

Paul Worster
07768 394593
paulw@mgcnew.co.uk



Last year's winning picture of The Duke's Course, Woburn taken by Michael Cunningham

SNAP HAPPY!

BIGGA's Golf Photography Competition is back

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The BIGGA Golf Photography Competition, back for its third year, creates an opportunity for greenkeepers to display their artistic flair, while also earning some publicity for their club.

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Photographs will be accepted in three forms. Prints (nine inch by seven inch), transparencies, or digitally (pictures MUST be at least 300 dpi and capable of being blown up to nine inches by seven inches in size).

Anyone wishing to enter should send their pictures to: [Scott MacCallum](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk) or [Melissa Jones](mailto:melissa@bigga.co.uk), BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark Manor, Alne, York, YO61 1UF by July 31, 2008.

Alternatively you can email them to scott@bigga.co.uk or melissa@bigga.co.uk

Entries will be judged by Alan Birch, whose inspiration the competition has been; Professional Golf Course Photographer, Eric Hepworth, Golf Photographer, Matthew Harris and Scott MacCallum, Editor of Greenkeeper International.

Only BIGGA members are eligible to enter.

So come on...strike a pose!



Second prize went to Marek Zubert last year for this picture of Mount Juliet, County Kilkenny



Chris Sherrington took third place last year with his shot of Sunningdale Old

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3	1	2	8	B	E	7	5	D	4	0	F	C	6	9	A
7	0	E	A	F	4	9	3	C	B	6	2	8	5	1	D
8	7	D	4	1	B	0	A	3	2	F	5	E	C	6	9
F	2	3	E	4	7	C	6	9	0	A	8	D	1	5	B
1	A	B	5	D	2	F	9	6	C	E	4	7	8	3	0
C	6	0	9	3	8	5	E	7	1	B	D	A	2	4	F
A	F	8	3	C	0	E	7	B	D	5	6	9	4	2	1
6	E	1	0	9	5	4	B	F	8	2	C	3	D	A	7
4	B	7	C	2	A	D	8	0	3	1	9	5	F	E	6
2	5	9	D	6	3	1	F	A	7	4	E	B	0	8	C
5	9	F	7	8	C	B	4	2	A	D	1	6	3	0	E
E	D	C	2	5	F	A	0	4	6	3	B	1	9	7	8
B	8	4	6	7	9	3	1	E	F	C	0	2	A	D	5
0	3	A	1	E	D	6	2	8	5	9	7	F	B	C	4

SQUIGGLY SUDOKU

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



Design Consulting

Head Greenkeeper

required for existing 36 hole proprietary debenture club north of London.

The courses are grassed with cool season grasses and have Weathermatic irrigation to tees and greens.

There are substantial areas of tall rough and gardens around the clubhouse together with gardens of an adjacent very large house which is within the overall site area.

A driving range, putting green and short game area provide members practice facilities

The Head Greenkeeper will report to General Manager directly and will have complete authority and responsibility for the management of the overall golf facility and grounds within an agreed Business Plan.

Excellent remuneration package dependent on experience.

A more detailed description is available from

Bob Hunt at bob.hunt@pgadc.com

CV's should be sent electronically to the same address.

Closing date 25th June 2008.

PGA is a registered trademark of the Professional Golfers Association of Great Britain and Ireland

RECRUITMENT

Regional Technical Sales Managers



Symbio is Europe's leading sports turf soil biology company. The drive for environmental sustainability, reduced pesticide use, increased fertiliser costs and reduced budgets means this is an exciting time to join Symbio.

To continue our expansion plans we would like to recruit 3 regional technical sales managers

Area 1 The M6 corridor - from Birmingham to Lancashire

Area 2 Eastern Counties - Essex to Leicestershire inc. East Anglia

Area 3 Southern England - Kent to Hampshire, Bucks and Berks.

Area 2 & 3 will be to manage existing accounts and extend the customer base

We offer an excellent salary and benefits with intensive training. There are opportunities to progress to national sales or export sales manager and for overseas travel. Experience of sales is an advantage but not essential.

You will be: a highly motivated self starter successful in setting and meeting targets; committed to developing your knowledge of soil biology, fertility and nutrition and confident to use your evolving knowledge to advise turf managers and landscapers how to improve results with the best soil biology and chemistry.

In addition to leading edge products for plant nutrition, thatch reduction, IPM programmes, poa annua management and mycorrhizal inoculants you will also sell Johnsons Seeds and the unique services of the soilfoodweb labs for soil biology and chemistry analyses.

Email polly@symbio.co.uk for a full job description or send your CV to:

Polly Gearing, Administration Manager at Symbio, Unit 8 Coopers Place, Combe Lane, Wormley, Surrey GU8 5SZ



HEAD GREENKEEPER

Course: GOLF SON PARC

Location: Menorca – Spain

Job description:

Responsible to the course manager of the 18th hole Dave Thomas designed course, for the day to day maintenance and presentation of the facility. For more information see our web site www.golfsonparc.com

The person should have good all round greenkeeping experience, with all the relevant qualifications and spraying certificates.

Must be self motivated and able to control & manage a mixed nationality team, a knowledge of warm weather grasses and conditions and good language skills would be an advantage.

We require the person as soon as possible. The package would be: Salary commensurate with experience, Accommodation included and contract for a minimum of 3 years.

Please forward a C.V. by e-mail to paola@golfsonparc.com and hb@golfsonparc.com or by post to our U.K. agents Krayburn Management Services Ltd, Ivy Barn, Salters Lane, Lower Washington, Macclesfield, SK11 9LR.



1906 - 2006

THE GLEN GOLF CLUB

Invites applications for the position of

COURSE MANAGER / HEAD GREENKEEPER

Founded in 1906, The Glen Golf Club is a combination of Links and Cliff-top golf course. The club regularly hosts SGU events and in July of this year will hold the Scottish U14 & U16 Open Championships.

The ideal candidate will possess:

- Ambition with proven ability of working to the highest standards at all times
- Minimum of 5 years green keeping experience and currently be in a position of responsibility
- Excellent leadership, training and motivational skills
- Proven competence in H&S compliance
- Possess relevant qualifications including spraying
- Excellent communications skills both orally and written
- Experience in delivering agreed course budgets

The successful candidate will be responsible for maintaining the current excellent condition of the course whilst also instigating continuous improvements. A strong green keeping background is essential also a sound knowledge of links greenkeeping practices would be of benefit.

An excellent package is available to the successful candidate. Applications should be made in writing or e-mail stating salary expectations and accompanied by a current CV - Closing Date 13th June 2008.

Please send to:

Mr Gordon Bowden, Greens Convenor, Glen Golf Club, East Links
Tantallon Terrace, North Berwick, East Lothian EH39 4LE

or Email secretary@glengolfclub.co.uk
further details www.glengolfclub.co.uk

Hockley Golf Club

(founded 1914)

require an additional

Assistant Greenkeeper

Minimum 3 years experience
Qualified to NVQ2 or equivalent
Spraying certificates PA1-2 & 6

Salary negotiable according to experience & qualifications
Accommodation may be available

Please reply in writing to:

Mrs Lyn Dyer/Club Secretary,
Hockley Golf Club, Twyford, Winchester, Hants SO21 1PL
Or email: secretary@hockleygolfclub.com
Tel: 01962 713165

Hockley is a chalk downland course with views overlooking Winchester.
It has excellent drainage throughout the year.



KAURI CLIFFS
MATAURI BAY NEW ZEALAND

SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT NEW ZEALAND

We are looking for experienced staff for our two golf courses in New Zealand for the 2008/09 summer season. Both courses have spectacular coastal locations – Kauri Cliffs is a modern golf course and luxury lodge situated in the beautiful Bay of Islands and Cape Kidnappers is a new golf course and lodge situated in the stunning Hawkes Bay area of New Zealand. To find out more about these spectacular courses, take a look at www.kauricliffs.com.

We are seeking experienced golf course maintenance staff for the 2008/09 season, beginning 8th September 2008 and ending early May 2009. Both facilities offer a modern work facility with a full range of the latest equipment comparable to top courses worldwide. Applicants would be responsible for their own work visas, travel arrangements and accommodation.

We envisage people with enthusiasm, commitment, self-motivation, a good attitude and eye for detail, and the ability to work well within our team environment.

You must be able to start work by 8th September 2008 and be committed to stay for the full length of your contract.

Please email full CV and the email addresses for two work referees to

Andy Wood kauricliffsw@xtra.co.nz

Applications close end of June 2008.

Inchmarlo Resort and Golf Club



Requires an

Experienced Greenkeeper

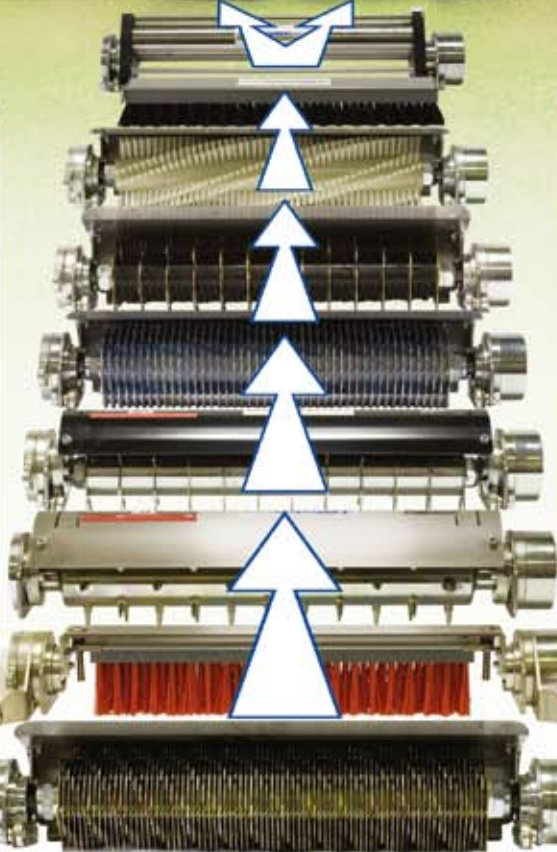
Inchmarlo Resort and Golf Club currently has a vacancy for a suitably qualified greenkeeper to join our skilled and enthusiastic course management team.

The successful applicant should have minimum of 2-3 years experience and should be qualified to NVQ level 2, have relevant spraying certificates and experience of green keeping at a golf club.

Salary is negotiable dependent on qualification and experience.

Please apply with full CV to:

**J Florence, Inchmarlo Resort & Golf Club
Glassel Road, Banchory, Aberdeenshire AB31 4BQ
Or email: pat@inchmarlo.com**



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www.advancedtt.com

Advanced Turf Technology Limited, Holbrook Avenue, Holbrook Industrial Estate, Halfway, Sheffield S20 3FF

WHATEVER THE WEATHER

As I write we have just had the first two weeks of good weather in May... and about time as it has been a long time coming! We're never happy though, as now we're complaining about keeping up with the grass. There's always something to moan about. Hopefully this is the start of things to come and when you read this I hope we will be experiencing a good start to the summer through June, after the cold spring. I don't want to contemplate a similar June to last year as sailing was more appropriate than greenkeeping.

I attended the R&A Conference at St Andrews last month and it was more of an environmentally aware themed conference, as opposed to just sustainability and grass species. When I did a presentation for the Canadian Greenkeeping Association, in Calgary, I realised just how much more the environmental issues impact on golf and ultimately our professions as greenkeepers – much more that we would have given thought to a few years ago.

At St Andrews we had two presentations, firstly from Nick Hanley, of the EU Commission, about where his views on where golf sit in Brussels with regard to water and pesticide use, as well as overall environment management, the impact of EU law and its enforcements going forward. The outcomes were that we have a long way to go to convince our counterparts in how we are perceived outside of the golfing industry. The powers at the EU think we can improve our position going forward - this was mirrored by Gordon Shepherd, from the World Wildlife Fund, as he put it across with a much stronger viewpoint resulting in a great presentation. Asked if the WWF would take on golf and its goals he said that we all had a long way to go to convince his organisation to thinking we are as good as we think we are!

Two good presentations and a bit of a wake up call. Although we are convinced within the industry that we have some great initiatives it is not always the same viewpoint from the outside. This reminded me of the summit meeting of the World Greenkeeping Associations in Calgary earlier this year. Although the Greenkeeping industry is pro-active in all the above areas we are not getting this message through to higher bodies or getting any recognition for them. It was in Canada that we listened to a fine presentation from the French Federation which is working within the



golf related industry to allow the government to back the game of golf and look upon it favourably in the future, should restrictions apply. In Europe there is also a lot of environmental certification across the Federations which is confusing and I think Golf Environment Europe has a big role to play in bringing all this work under one banner so that it can then be recognised in Brussels.

Back in St Andrews we then had a presentation from the R&A and the launch of its benchmarking tool on the website for golf course management. A fantastic initiative and one which helps us all put our records into one template which, in years to come, will be an excellent document in terms of how environmental friendly and how good the game of golf and associated industries are for it. Ultimately we are all fine guardians of the land.

A good conference with plenty of thought for the future.

I would like to wish my Vice Chairman, Peter Todd, and his team, best wishes at The London Club. They are hosting their first main Tour event, the European Open, 3-6 July.

I hope you have all read John Pemberton's article last month, and understand the procedure for the Vice Chairman 2009, it is a great honour and if your club is committed then we would like to see as many applications as possible.

Kenny Mackay
Chairman



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