



## SOUTH COAST SECTION

the week – like I arrived at the Cairn Hotel on the Sunday afternoon with a virtually empty car park to choose from. So naturally, I parked at the end of a row, not too far from the door, but well out of the way of delivery trucks etc, and promptly woke up on Monday morning with my car up to its axles in a dirty great flood. “Oi Worster - your poncy new car’s sinking out there” laughed a couple of hung-over greenkeepers over breakfast – I said “BMW can expect a pretty bl\*\*dy strong letter of complaint if it does”! Mind you, I got my own back the following morning as they had strayed into a club during the late evening, and the barman recommended a B-52 house cocktail. On the second visit to the bar he suggested they try a B-53 cocktail. The next thing they knew, they were up to B-58, and no one was quite sure what they were doing, where they were staying, or even who they were any more. Will some people never learn? Dave Rosselli and Adam Matthews were still reeling from two days cooped up with Frank Newberry (no offence Frank!) Worryingly, they’ve picked up some disturbingly clever management techniques – I never win an argument these days. The Disturbance Theory was both interesting, controversial, and, well, disturbing really, but if the attendance was anything to go by, of importance to a lot of people. Henry Bechelet and the team were just so enthusiastic, and gave a pretty well balanced picture.

The Conference Keynote speaker – “Spike” Jetsum, recently of the Red Arrows, was simply phenomenal. He brought home the importance of the team ethic – of everyone buying into the team and working together. A video of that for a rainy day in the shed, would be a superb motivational tool. Thanks to all who visited, exhibited, and put so much in.

The Section Spring Tournament will be at Clevedon Golf Club on April 24, the haunt of my old friend Barry Reeves. Barry has been at Clevedon in excess of 30 years, having been a Pro for a while, and has overseen the complete reconstruction of all the greens and an extension to the course. One of our most experienced members, and looking so well on it! There will be golf, and a short educational presentation by Peter Hampton, and Steve Nixon, of Bernhards. Details of our Section Education Programme will have been posted on the website using the Education Bulletin Board. Please check regularly for updates. We would welcome any suggestions, and members requests can be delivered using sponsorship from both our Patronage Scheme, and the Education Support Fund. So if there’s something you’ve always wanted to learn about, but never dared to ask (within reason!) please get in touch.

Hot on the heels of the Spring Tournament will be the popular Greenkeeper/ Amateur event at Minchinhampton Old Course on May 13. Timed just before “Brown Friday” (when the cows come out), this should be the best time of year to play this historic course. Look forward to seeing you there.

Finally, with the advent of improved club and ball technology, our greensheds are well in range of sliced balls from a nearby par 5 tee. Even the seniors are quite capable of carrying a ball into the compound with monotonous regularity. Imagine then my Mechanics concern when he read an advert in a golf magazine explaining how a heated golf ball will travel yet further - and purchasing a carry-case with an electric element inside will keep the balls at the “Optimum Temperature” for maximum distance. “Blimey” he muttered – “they’ll be dropping like fiery meteors from the sky next” – “better check-out the fire drill, just in case”!

Let’s have some feedback on Spring Renovation etc. on your courses.

Paul Worster [paulw@mgcnew.co.uk](mailto:paulw@mgcnew.co.uk) 01453 837355

First of all a big thank you to Chris Bitten our Secretary for completing February’s Around The Green article. Unfortunately I was one of the many who fell to the dreadful bug that was going around at the turn of the year, but glad to say now I’m fighting fit.

I now have the dates for this year’s Golf Days. Our first outing is the Spring Tournament which will be held at Arlesford GC on Thursday, May 1. This is always a very special occasion as we always remember Colin White. So please come along and support what I know will be a very enjoyable day.

The Summer Tournament will be at Burley GC on Thursday, July 10; Autumn Tournament at Salisbury & South Wilts GC on Thursday, October 9 and the Turkey Trot once again at Barton-On-Sea GC on Wednesday, December 10.

Other important dates are: The Match with the Secretaries at Brockenhurst GC on Wednesday, June 4 and the Annual Match between the South West Section which will be a fantastic occasion as it will be held at Remedy Oak GC on August 27. All of these above fixtures will be on the fixture card which you should all receive soon, if you have not already received.

The Pairs Competition is continuing this year with Alan Magee organising the draw and the running of this event. Please support it as it is an excellent opportunity to get to know fellow greenkeepers and play different courses. To register please contact Alan on: 01202 606668 or send him a cheque made out to “BIGGA South Coast” with details of you and your playing partner. Cheques to be sent to Alan at 12 Sutton Close, Poole, Dorset, BH17 8SS. The cost is £12 per pair. Standard FBBB rules apply with a nominated home course before the closing date of March 31, 2008. Any questions please feel free to call Alan on 01202 606668.

As a reminder, 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: 07859 053054 or on email: [glassy2003@hotmail.com](mailto:glassy2003@hotmail.com).

And finally, remember to keep me up to date with all the news in the area. Please contact me on the number below.

Joe Crawley 07721 389200



## DEVON & CORNWALL

Our first meeting of 2008 took place on a reasonably pleasant day (for January) at the beautiful links of West Cornwall and was sponsored by Barenburg UK Ltd and Cornwall Farmers, our thanks to them.

Attendance was in the low 60’s with approximately half of who tackled the course, myself included, I had the pleasure of the company of Andy Dunstan, Head Greenkeeper from Newquay GC, and Tim Ellis, First Assistant from Mullion, for the round-all of us a bit rusty I’m afraid-but we had fun!

# Around the Green

The course was in excellent condition and our thanks go to Course Manager, Keith Kemp, and his team for the use of the course for the day. The format for the day was an individual stableford 3/4 handicap for the Barenburg Trophy. The results were 1. Nick Olds, W.Cornwall, 37pts. 2. Steve Elliot, W.Cornwall, 36pts. 3. Roger Neale, Taunton & Pickeridge, 34pts. There was also Nearest the Pin on the par 3 15th won by Chris Ralph from Hele Park Golf Centre, and Longest Drive on the 18th won by Tony (Jacko) James, Head Greenkeeper from Killiow Park.

The non-golfers course walk was attended by the rest and proved to be of great interest as Andy Cole along with Steve Gingell, from STRI, gave a talk on practical sustainable golf course management.

After an excellent lunch, our thanks to the catering staff, the talk was on course policy, forward planning with you and your members, and a very interesting presentation by Steve Gingell on global warming and its affects, during which we were shown average temperatures in the UK over the passed ten years or so and how they have risen-certainly something for us all to think about.

On a lighter note just a reminder of the spring workshop on Wednesday, March 5 at Fingle Glen Golf Club, nr Exeter, on subjects such as sustainability, water and nutrient management, grass breeding and selection. Guest speakers for the day are Andy Cole STRI, Dr Neil Baldwin Amega Sciences, Brian Robinson, Director of Seed Research, and Stephen Denton, Grass Seed Development Manager, both from Rigby Taylor. Non-members such as Greens Chairman, Captains etc and non-affiliated turf grass professionals are also welcome.

A few changes to note Steve Evans, Course Manager for the last seven years at Yelverton, is starting full time work at Duchy College early February as "Greenkeeper Tutor and Assesor" Steve replaces Bill Pile who has done so much for Greenkeeping in Devon & Cornwall. George Pitts, we all know from Cannington College, is taking over the reins at Yelverton. I'm sure you'll join me in wishing all three of them best wishes for the future.

Finally our next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 12 at Royal North Devon. Here's wishing for some drier weather!

Well done to all greenkeepers who made it too Harrogate and our thank you's to; Colin Webber for the free use of his mini bus; Symbio, for sponsoring the fuel; Graeme and Tim for collecting and returning the bus, and thanks to Keith Kemp for driving both ways.

It was a really good show with some excellent seminars. It sounded like everybody enjoyed themselves.

A big thank you must go out to the Duchy College and our Section for sponsoring three students who had a great time and found it a valuable experience. We plan to provide a bus up and back again next year, and we will be providing a free trip for one person as a raffle prize at this year's AGM.

*Jerry Cole 07764 224582*



## **SOUTH WALES**

Hi everybody, apologies for my absence over the last couple of months, but if you have not heard, my dear wife, Norma, lost her three year battle

with cancer. I would like to thank everyone for his or her support and kindness through our difficult time, thank you all.

As if that's not enough, more bad news, Ceri and Donna Richards lost their son, Evan, on the December, 20, 2007. Evan was born prematurely and suffered from serious complications. I am sure I speak for everybody when I say our thoughts are with you and your family at this sad time.

On to some good news now and its congrats to Paul and Mandy Johnson, Paul is Head Greenkeeper at Pyle & Kenfig GC and Mandy gave birth to a 7lb 1oz bouncing baby boy his name is Luke. Well done you two must be this Welsh air!

I know it's late but on December 7, 39 greenkeepers took to the links at P&K GC for our Christmas bash, our thanks to P&k GC for once again allowing us the use of their excellent course and facilities, to Paul and the team for all their hard work to present the course in such a fine condition, all the bar and catering staff for the excellent meal and service. Our sponsors for the day were Vitax and Celtic Mowers who were represented by Mr John Mullins and Mr. Kim Davies respectfully. Thank you for your continued support, which enables us events like today.

Onto the prize winners, and 3. Daryl Bray, 37pts; in 2. Jamie Probit, 37pts on count back; 1. Peter Lacey, with 38pts was our out going Secretary. Longest drive on the 9th was won by, guess who! Andy Roach. Nearest the pin on 12th was won by Mr Daryl Jones. The Silver Salver for best combined score over four tournaments went to Andy Hatcher, (Coed y Mwstwr ).

Our thanks to Mr Jeff Vincent, Vice Captain of P & K GC, for presenting the prizes. Last of all, thank you all for turning out, 44 of us sat down for dinner and it would be nice to see more of you at our golf days in the future.

That's it from me for now except to wish David Ward all the best in his retirement after 20 odd years' of loyal service at Royal Porthcawl Good luck! Dave, you will be sadly missed within the industry, up and down the country.

You should have all had your letters by now on the fixtures, don't forget the Spring Seminar at Royal Porthcawl on April 24.

I would like to wish Steven Chapel (Neath GC), all the best in his new role as Section Secretary. I am sure you will all give him your support.

*Henry Stead 07889792190*

## **BIGGA's Regional Administrators**



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



# In the Shed

## ANSWERS

### CROSSWORD

M	A	N	O	W	A	R	P	O	A	C	H	E	D
U	I	H	O	O	N	E	A						
S	E	C	T	I	O	N	A	L	K	I	R	O	V
H	K	P	N	I	L	O	I						
	A	L	L	I	N	T	H	E	M	I	N	D	
T	P	A	E	I	T	N	G						
R	O	L	S	R	O	Y	C	E	E	C	H	O	
E	A	H	S	A	F	H	W						
M	I	T	T	G	U	I	L	L	O	T	I	N	E
E	D	G	L	A	U	C	R						
N	E	U	T	R	A	L	I	S	I	N	G		
D	J	E	I	Y	T	P	I						
O	Z	O	N	E	V	A	L	U	A	T	I	O	N
U	U	C	A	U	I	E	C						
S	U	R	G	E	O	N	M	O	N	A	R	C	H

### QUICK NINE HOLE QUIZ

1. Inigo Imago
2. 6 (Uruguay 1930, Italy 1934, England 1966, West Germany 1974, Argentina 1978, France 1998)
3. The North Pole
4. Edinburgh
5. Sweden
6. The river Ness
7. Robert Zemeckis
8. Dr Black's
9. It is the most visible colour in fog

### MONSTER SUDOKU

C	1	5	6	B	4	A	2	3	8	9	7
9	7	4	B	5	6	3	8	2	C	A	1
3	8	A	2	9	C	7	1	5	4	6	B
5	9	C	3	2	7	4	B	A	6	1	8
A	B	6	7	C	8	1	5	4	2	3	9
2	4	8	1	A	3	9	6	C	7	B	5
1	A	2	C	8	B	6	3	7	9	5	4
8	5	B	4	7	A	C	9	1	3	2	6
7	6	3	9	1	5	2	4	8	B	C	A
6	2	9	5	4	1	8	C	B	A	7	3
4	3	1	A	6	2	B	7	9	5	8	C
B	C	7	8	3	9	5	A	6	1	4	2

### SQUIGGLY SUDOKU

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

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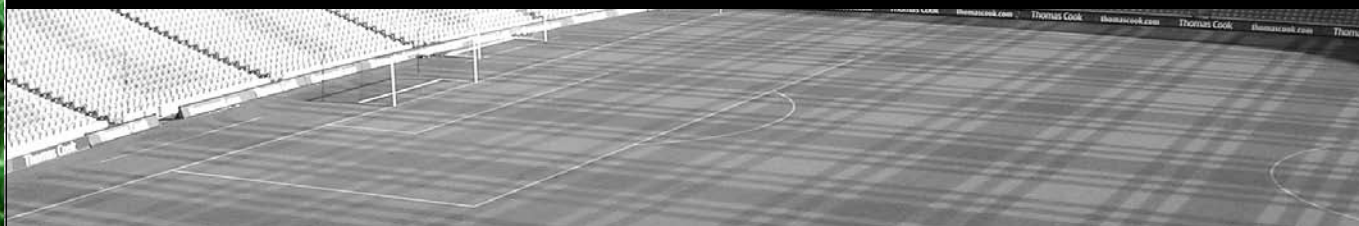
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# REGIONAL MANAGER AMENITY Northern England and North Wales



RECRUITMENT

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Please send your CV, in confidence, by mail to: Julie Whitelaw, Barenbrug UK Ltd., 33 Perkins Road, Rougham Industrial Estate, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP30 9ND or email: [JWhitelaw@baruk.co.uk](mailto:JWhitelaw@baruk.co.uk)



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Applicants are requested to apply in writing or by e-mail, enclosing a full CV, to:

James Gathercole, Benton Hall Golf & Country Club, Wickham Hill, Witham, Essex CM8 3LH  
E-mail: [j.gathercole@theclubcompany.com](mailto:j.gathercole@theclubcompany.com)  
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# COURSE MANAGER

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A competitive salary is available to the successful candidate and accommodation may also be available on a temporary basis. If you would like to be part of our team, please send your CV with a covering letter to:

**Patrick Shanahan**  
**General Manager**  
**Wimbledon Park Golf Club**  
**Home Park Road**  
**Wimbledon Park SW19 7HR**

or alternatively  
 e-mail your CV and letter to [patrick@wpgc.co.uk](mailto:patrick@wpgc.co.uk)

**CLOSING DATE: 31st March 2008**



### WILDWOOD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB



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Applications should be in writing to Gary Gornall, Wildwood Country Club Ltd, Horsham Road, Alfold, Surrey GU6 8JE or by email to [info@wildwoodgolf.co.uk](mailto:info@wildwoodgolf.co.uk)

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#### MECHANIC/GREENKEEPER



L.G.D.G.C.

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Applications with a detailed CV should be sent to: Secretary/Manager, Lytham Green Drive GC, Lytham St Annes FY8 4LE

The closing date for applications is Friday 28 March



### FOREST OF GALTRES GOLF CLUB



Skelton, York

We require an **ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER** who is keen, reliable, hardworking, interested in the job and prepared to work flexible hours. NVQ Level 1 & 2 would be an advantage.

**Applications in writing to:**  
 The Secretary, Forest of Galtres Golf Club, Skelton Lane, Wigginton, York YO32 2RF



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Closing Date: 21st March 2008





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Marcus Oakey  
Head Greenkeeper  
Moor Allerton Golf Club  
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### HIGHCLIFFE CASTLE GOLF CLUB requires a HEAD GREENKEEPER

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- The ability to coach and motivate our young and keen team of assistants to achieve their full potential.
- The skills to develop and implement work programmes to maintain the course to the highest level of presentation within strict budgetary controls.
- A working knowledge of Health and Safety regulations and a commitment to promoting safe working practices at all times.

Please apply to:

Graham Fisher, The Secretary, Highcliffe Castle Golf Club, 107 Lymington Road, Christchurch, Dorset, BH23 4LA.

**Closing date for applications 31st March 2008**

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Please apply in writing or by e-mail, with CV to:  
The Secretary Manager, Boyce Hill Golf Club, 125 Vicarage Hill, Benfleet, Essex SS7 1PD.  
E-mail secretary@boycehillgolfclub.co.uk

### CHARTHAM PARK GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

Felcourt Road, Felcourt, East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 2JT

### MECHANIC

Based either Hildenborough, Kent or East Grinstead, West Sussex. The right candidate must possess skills and experience in mechanics. An agricultural or horticultural background would be desirable but not essential. You will be responsible for working on the maintenance of the golf course

equipment across two sites and general health and safety of the workshops.

### GREENKEEPERS

Opportunities at Hildenborough, Kent and East Grinstead, West Sussex Reporting to the Course Manager you'll possess strong abilities to complete the day to day tasks within the team. You must have a background in Greenkeeping, a recognised certificate in turf management (NVQ Level 2 or equivalent). You will also have an eye for detail and ensure that quality standards are maintained at all times.

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## EARLY BREAKFASTS AND HEAVY RAIN

On the back of Harrogate it was a quick change, iron some shirts, see the kids for Saturday and Sunday then head off to the GIS show in Orlando. I knew I had a very busy schedule of classes, seminars and meetings ahead of me. With attendance from other Associations as well it was to be a big week. There were lots of highlights throughout the week and a big British and Irish contingent over at the show this year.

Classes started on Monday/Tuesday and there were plenty to choose from technical turf issues to management courses.

### WEDNESDAY

Set up the stand on the show. John, Sami and I attended the President's Reception and Main Show Reception. I met some old friends and made some new ones, from Canada and the States.

### THURSDAY

I attended the Superintendents' Breakfast Seminar. I attended this session last year and again was amazed at the number of people bearing in mind that the start time was a 6am breakfast, then from 6.30am, two hours of 20 minute presentations. There were at least 300 in the audience for the opening seminar 'Five things you can do with your stimpmeter'. Some very funny slides and a good presentation from Mike Morris. More about that later. Also, Dean Pillar, an old friend, gave a presentation on managing physical properties on greens.

I then moved on to the opening session of the GIS to see Greg Norman collect his Old Tom Morris Award. Greg gave a fantastic insight into his work within the golf industry and his support of the Golf Course Superintendents and greenkeepers, where he works for the GCSAA as Chairman of the Board of the Environmental Institution.

I was coming to realise that my very early start could have been a mistake later that day as I attended more meetings, with Rainbird Syngenta and then on to a dinner, hosted by Bernhard's. I was fortunate enough to be seated next to Mike Morris who had given his presentation earlier, so a very good evening followed, covering that, and many subjects.



The BIGGA Delegation, sponsored by Bernhards, was also in attendance.

An entertaining evening following what amounted to being a very long day for me, which had me struggling by 11pm.

### FRIDAY

Another early start to the Superintendents' Breakfast, very well attended again. Some more superb presentations. We were then on the move again to a meeting with the Mechanics Association to discuss how they could link in with our new category for mechanics memberships. Lots of education workshops and broadcasts through the internet with the possibility of linking through webcasts for education programmes

On the stand at the show I was amazed at how much interest there was in our Master Greenkeeper Certificate from the American Superintendents.

Also, some interest from exhibitors looking at stand space for Harrogate next year.

### SATURDAY

A much quieter day at the show which finished around lunchtime. A good time to get round and pick up some literature. Sami and I spent some time talking about future ideas going forward into 2009 for Harrogate with speeches and education. A leisurely afternoon followed with colleagues from the industry.

### SUNDAY

A day of rest before returning home, but not before work first thing Monday morning, turning my thoughts back to the real job.

## BACK AT THE COURSE

A very wet start to the week in which I returned. It began to dry out but had already given us some problems with our construction project on our 11th hole. With only three or four days completed construction in January. We are now four weeks behind schedule. With the course starting to dry out we can progress with the project once again. I was very impressed with how quickly the course did manage to dry out, although the delay gave us time to focus on our tree planting and thinning projects.

We then had our annual Supplier's Golf Day at the Belfry. We entertained our suppliers from within our golf departments, as they enjoyed a round on the Brabazon. Some good golf among the trade but some tough holes, for which I believe I was blamed....

## WEATHER CONDITIONS

I know we had a terrible January with average rainfall across the UK at 225mm - 9 inches in old money. It was the third wettest January on record. This varied from region to region with Scotland and N Ireland worst hit. This has put our industry on the back foot in terms of revenue streams and incomes. I am sure it will have a long term effect bearing in mind the horrendous summer of 2007. It is an impact we could do without and hopefully February will be kinder with more favourable weather forecasts.

When planning winter projects, I know that the norm in recent years within the industry is to do a lot more construction and disruptive work in the winter months than in the summer, so our greenkeepers are in need of some good weather in February and March if we are to push these plans on, otherwise the season will be on us. In addition we have to consider an early Easter in mid-March increasing the possibility of higher golf attendance and therefore expectation. There will be significant pressure to finish winter projects when really our golf season is May to October. This could cost us two valuable months of completion and again give us another back-log of work to carry through into next winter.

I hope you are all getting through your workloads and managing expectations in a difficult year already.



Kenny MacKay

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