

# Letters

## Dear BIGGA

This is a short ode that my good friend John Small put together for my greenstaff, John is my Greens Convenor, he read it out to us at our Captain's Day Breakfast, he usually would tell a joke but this year he had a poem. John loves golf and the course, he's one of the good guys, and during this wet year in Northern Ireland we need them all.

**Terry Crawford**  
**Clandeboyne GC**

## ODE (AND OWED) TO THE GREENKEEPER

All over the world greens staff labour and toil  
To conjure perfection from sand grass and soil  
They should be receiving due reward and praise  
For producing great surfaces, sward just like baize  
But the real of it is that despite their devotion  
It is plain that some critics don't have a notion  
Of the effort applied, so they're able to say  
"Now wasn't the course in fair order today?"

You'd wonder how they can be quite so crass  
Do they think it is elves manicuring the grass?  
They golf away happy, impressed with that feat  
Since the wee mites keep keeping it perfectly neat  
But the truth must come out, it does bear correction  
Neither elves nor good fairies have any connection  
With creating the beauty and all that they ask  
It's the Greens Team who simply get on with that task

They're the ones out there working in rain hail or blow  
Cutting, digging, sweeping, grubbing, although  
Some members get edgy, indignantly ruffled  
If the sound of the mowers isn't totally muffled  
And the sensitive players can't bear any noise  
So when with pure viciousness one of the boys  
Wipes the trickling sweat from off his hot brow  
And shatters the silence...now here comes a row!  
Before dusk they're writing a long wordy letter  
Saying he/she would play colossally better  
If the greens work and cutting was all changed around  
So that others could be put off by the sound!

Next up are our experts, so clever, so sage  
Two toots in the bar and they rail rant and rage  
It is boundless, amazing, just how much they know  
About drainage and tining and making grass grow  
No matter its March and the winter's been tough  
It's a total disgrace that the course looks so rough  
You'd wonder how "Fit for Purpose" they'd be  
Lying out there all night with the temp minus three!  
Yet on the rare days they've played well and won  
The Course Manager's lauded, a favourite son  
But soon they return to their topping and hacking  
Crying "Discipline! Punishment! Sacking!"

Now this note is one Convenor's way  
Of raising a smile, while going on to say  
That even the moaners and the over-smart

Must really and honestly know in their heart  
That fighting the elements pests and disease  
Is something that cannot be coped with with ease  
And even the cynic who it seems can't be sated  
Can surely not fail to be thrilled and elated  
When they step on the first tee, the sun shining bright  
And stretching before them, a wonderful sight  
No nagging computer and no traffic's roar  
God's in his heaven! All nature cries "Fore"!

To the Greens Team for all of your work and the way  
That the course is prepared for us every day  
This ode highlights the praise and respect that is due  
And closes with an honest and mighty "Thank You"!

## ROYAL BIRKDALE

The 2008 Open Championship at Royal Birkdale GC was a very memorable experience for me, one that I will never forget. I was privileged to have been selected to be a member of the BIGGA support team. Everyone I met throughout the week, from BIGGA staff to fellow Course Managers (GC Supt's) were very friendly and hospitable towards myself and my family which made my experience even more special. Conversations during the week and over drinks in the evenings with fellow "bloats" were very enjoyable as well as informative as we talked about maintenance practice and life in Europe as well as Hawaii. It became obvious to me that regardless of Course Managers working in the UK, USA or elsewhere around this world we all share a common bond and interest to share ideas and support each other.

I have been a volunteer for the Masters Tournament for the past nine years and Augusta National GC is no doubt a very beautiful and special venue. Royal Birkdale GC and other Open venues on the other hand also have a very special beauty of its own. It may sound crazy but I actually enjoyed the first day of the Open Championship with the rain, wind and cold conditions as well as the extremely windy Saturday round. I realize that type of inclement weather can be typical playing conditions for The Open, one that tests the skills and determination of the players. I know it tested me but throughout the Open Championship I stood tall, tried to do my task as expected and carried my rake in proper position (as instructed by Paul Jenkins) every step of the way.

Thank you again Rachael, Scott and countless others for making us feel at home and I look forward to you coming over the visit us in Hawaii one day!

**With warmest regards, cheers and aloha,**  
**Curtis Kono**  
**Oahu Country Club**  
**Hawaii**

Please email your letters to  
Scott MacCallum, [scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk)  
or Melissa Jones, [melissa@bigga.co.uk](mailto:melissa@bigga.co.uk)  
or post to:  
BIGGA House,  
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## News from the Chief Executive

Following a recent audit by Yorkshire and Humberside Assessment Limited I am pleased to be able to report that BIGGA has been judged as achieving the required standard in order to be deemed an Investor in People. This is an award that the Association has held continuously since 1999 and it recognises the commitment by a business to staff development, financial and operational planning, efficiency, communication and management.

The performance of the organisation is regularly reviewed to ensure that it continues to meet the very demanding standards set by the awarding body. Being an Investor in People not only demonstrates to the outside world that you have achieved a certain standard but it also can help when applying for Government and other related training funding.

In the office, planning for Harrogate Week 2009 is demanding more and more of everyone's time. I sometimes think that it is overlooked that this major event in the diary of the turf industry is organised completely in-house by the staff at BIGGA HOUSE, thereby maximising efficiency and profitability.

Despite the absence next January of some of the larger manufacturers, there remains a positive approach by the rest of the industry and already most of the planned space is already sold. The educational programme has been increased in both number of hours available and the range of subjects. The Association recognises the need to help with member's costs and has therefore taken the unprecedented step of offering the greatest part of the educational seminars free of charge.

Next January also sees another move away from tradition in so far as there will not be a banquet on the Thursday evening. New for next year will be a Social Night on Tuesday that will take place in the Majestic Hotel and will consist of a Casino, a variety of high-tech games machines together with a buffet meal. Where required gaming chips and tokens will be provided and there will be a prize for the person that accumulates the highest value. It is designed to be a night of fun, entertainment and social interaction where you can meet old friends and make new ones in a relaxed atmosphere. Once again the price has been kept down to a minimum to make the event affordable.

Full details will be promoted through Greenkeeper International and on the BIGGA web site however anyone requiring more information can contact any member of Headquarters staff.

Harrogate Week is a vital part of the income stream of the Association and relies upon the support of both exhibitors and visitors for its success. This event provides you, the Member, with the opportunity to support YOUR Association as well as you being able to experience some valuable education.

A team from HQ recently attended Dunbar Golf Club to support the testimonial golf day for Graeme Wood who tragically suffered a severe stroke at the beginning of 2007. The day was a huge success but just as importantly it demonstrated the fellowship that exists within the industry. I have recently been made aware that Colin Denny has suffered further health problems since I last met him at The Open and that Lars-Goran Bange, Chairman of the Swedish Greenkeepers Association, is seriously ill following a stroke last week. I wish them both a speedy recovery. Welfare of members is a vital part of BIGGA's agenda and we continuously review how this can be improved. I am always open to suggestions as long as they are reasonable and achievable!

Finally it is nice to have a day when it has not rained and I hope that your courses are drying out thereby allowing you to get some vital work done before we slip into winter. It is noticeable how the days are getting shorter and I wonder where this year has gone. I must be getting old!



### SCOTTISH REGION - CENTRAL

The Central Section had a great day out at Dunblane New GC on September 4 for their Autumn Outing.

It was held in glorious sunshine on a course presented in excellent condition by Chris Pearson and his team despite the appalling weather we have had in this part of the country through August. Our sincere thanks to all at Dunblane for making us so welcome and to our Patrons for their support.

There were 40 golfers competing for the trophies on the day and the winners are as follows: Best Scratch, Kenny Mitchell, of St Andrews Links, Kenny also won the Spring and Autumn combined nett prize. Kevin Brunton, of Greentech, matched Kenny's score of 72 to win the Trade Prize. Best Nett on the day was Christie Mackenzie of the host club with 73 - 5 = 68. Archie Dunn, of Auchterarder, won best handicap in the first class with a 69 and Gordon McKie, of St Andrews Links, won best handicap in the second class with a 68.

The Section AGM will be held at Elmwood on Monday, October 27, where we will also have a speaker, Martin Heywood, of Aquadrop, talking about irrigation water quality and how you can improve it. The details will be on the website nearer the time: [www.biggacentralsection.org.uk](http://www.biggacentralsection.org.uk)

The website has been quiet through the summer but hopefully it will pick up again now that the season is coming to a close.

Gordon Moir



### NORTH

Firstly this month may I congratulate Philip Don, from Kemnay GC, and his team of Neil Bremner, Martin Patterson and Raymond Warrender. They won the recent qualifying competition at Kintore GC for the John Deere Team Championships. This enabled them to take part in the UK Finals at Turnberry. They finished a fantastic second out of the 27 regional qualifiers. Well done lads but I could only think that Raymond was there to provide the team with a higher handicap and to make up the numbers. That said, though, on behalf of the Section well done.

I can't get away this month without mentioning I have become a dad for the second time. My wife, Susan, gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, Ava, on August 17. I thought that having one child was hard work but two! I wouldn't swap it for the world.

I also have to congratulate the father-in-law too, Brian Hunter. He is a



greenkeeper at McDonald GC, Ellon, and according to his workmates he has had a grin on his face for the past three weeks. That must be the first thing that I've done to put a smile on his face since Aidan was born!

One man on the move recently is Kevin Peace. He was formerly the Head Greenkeeper at Inverurie GC. He has left this post to take up the Area Sales Managers position at Alpha Plus Machinery. On behalf of the Section I would like to wish you all the best Kevin and hope that you have many a good year at Alpha.

The Norrie Whittock Trophy was played recently at Auchterarder. The North Section sent a team down and ended up finishing a creditable second. Well done to the West Section, who won the trophy. The team fell four points short of the West - unlucky. I did hear though Warren that you would of been better staying at home and learning how to tie your tie for the next outing at Kirriemuir.

I finish this month's news with the sad passing away of John Flint (Flinty). He was the Head Greenkeeper at Hazelhead GC in Aberdeen. He was Vice Chairman of the North Section in 1987/98 and then on to the Chairman's job the following year.

That's all for this month, I did say in the last report that the results from Kirriemuir would be in this edition but I got carried away and ahead of myself, sorry. I promise they'll be in the next one.

Ben Brookes



## EAST

Once again the weather is the main topic of conversation and for all the wrong reasons. The South of Scotland has been deluged with non-stop rain throughout August and the early part of September. When is it going to stop? I hear you all groan!

Surprisingly, as the falling rainfall figures will testify, the North East of the country has escaped relatively unscathed: Berwick GC, August 197mm, September 1-10, 70mm; West Linton GC, August 258mm, September 1-10, 84mm; Letham Grange GC, August 171mm, September 1-10, 27mm; Royal Aberdeen GC, August 120mm, September 1-10, 35mm.

The above figures were courtesy of Messrs. Thompson, Yeaman, Tough and Paterson respectively. Due to the appalling weather Stevie Dixon took the sensible decision of cancelling the autumn outing which was to be held on September 9 at Kingsknowe. It has been rescheduled at West Linton GC on October 9.

This has resulted in the Willie Woods competition being moved to a later date, which at the time of writing, has still to be confirmed.

The annual Chris Yeaman Junior Charity Tournament was held on Saturday, August 23 with many greenkeepers and members of the trade in attendance.

Over the years approximately £30,000 has been raised and donated to hospital based charities. Once again, the Yeaman family would like to thank everyone who contributed to make the event such a success.

A few weeks ago I received a call at home from a lady, whose husband is the greenkeeper at Newcastleton. In answer to her question, the dates

for Scotsturf this year are Wednesday 5 and Thursday, November 6. I trust her husband enjoys the show and she enjoys her shopping trip!

On Thursday, September 10 I attended a lecture organised by the Central Section at Elmwood Golf Course. The speaker was Stanley J Kostka from Aquatrols, who gave a very informative talk on Soil Surfactants. I do not plan on stealing Gordon Moir's thunder by reporting on the lecture however, I was impressed by the organisation of the evening, led by the ever enthusiastic Andy Mellon and by the presence of a number of younger greenkeepers from the surrounding courses. They, as a Section, are setting a benchmark for the rest of us to follow.

Finally, as most of you know, I'm off to Crete on October 10, so I would be grateful if any news could be forwarded to me before this date so that I can prepare the November report.

Until next month,  
Mike Dooner



## NORTHERN REGION - NORTH WEST

Another wet August finishes and another wet September starts. I am getting suicidal with the weather as I am sure every other greenkeeper is. We held our Autumn Tournament at Davenport GC yesterday and what started as a great day, with the sun shining, quickly ending up with the rain arriving.

This did not put off our enjoyment of an excellent course, very well maintained by Frank Swift and his lads and many thanks to the committee of Davenport GC for allowing us courtesy of the course also to Elaine in the office, Bob the steward and indeed everyone who was so friendly and really went out of their way to make our day so enjoyable.

So to the results: Best Nett - Allan Donlevy; 2nd Best Nett - Tommy Lyons; Best Gross - Paul Pearce. The Aggregate Cup was won by Dave McEvoy. The Vets was also won by Dave and the Guest Prize was won by David Snowden. The Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin sponsored by Bathgates was won by Paul Pearce and Craig Morris.

The next event is the Bert Cross Memorial Trophy and AGM to be held at Wilmslow GC on December 4. Please book early as this event is very popular and also remember to bring a bottle to the value of £5 so everyone goes home with a prize.

Billy Merritt is the man to book with and he can be found at The Lodge, Beacon Park GC, Beacon Lane, Dalton, Wigan, WN8 7RU.

Billy can be contacted on: 07985175825.

I can be contacted on: 0151 2894625  
or my email is: jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk

Chris Sheehan





# Around the Green



## NORTH

Is it just me or is anybody else sick of the weather? Constant rain and no sunshine for weeks on end. This year has turned out to be a testing one for all of us. Let's just hope we have a dry autumn.

It is with great sadness that I have to report the sudden death of Alan Lofthouse. Alan was a great friend to many members of the Section and will be missed by us all. Alan started his long career at Moortown before moving to Ilkley GC to become First Assistant. From Ilkley, Alan moved on to become Head Greenkeeper of Branshaw, before heading south for a long stint at Saffron Walden. He moved back north to take the reins at Fixby, where he worked until his retirement. Our thoughts are with his family and close friends.

Shipley GC was the venue for the 2008 Invitation Day Competition, on August 21. As you may guess the weather in the week running up to the event was atrocious and all the praise in the world must go to Nigel and his team for producing a fantastic course in extremely difficult conditions. The overall winner on the day was Alan Baxter and his partner, with a score of 49 points, which included nine 3s and a 2 which isn't bad I suppose. Well done to all the other winners on the day. A special thank you to Mike Brear and the Rigby Taylor company for the sponsorship of the day.

The next event on the calendar is Winter Golf and AGM, at Halifax GC. The date and time have now been confirmed as Thursday, December 11, with first tee off at 10am. If you fancy playing on the day I need your name and payment at least a week beforehand. I'm sure as some of you will be partaking in a few beverages after (as well as during) the golf. If anyone is interested in sharing a minibus please get in touch ASAP and we can try and arrange something.

Adam Speight  
07739 319060



## CLEVELAND

Sorry about the lack of news over the last few months but there hasn't been much to report apart from the flamin' weather. The grass has never stopped growing even on the links courses. The greens staff at these clubs now know what it's like to work a full 12 months. Eh, Pembo?

Anyway just a few dates to put in your diary of the forthcoming events in the next few months: Our Section AGM will take place on Tuesday, November 4 at 7pm - venue Teesside GC. Following the meeting, which only lasted 25

minutes last year, David Snowdon will be presenting another lecture, this time on 'Wetting agents Uses and Abuses'.

David has already given the Section a talk on foliar feeds that was an excellent evening enjoyed by all and rounded off with steak pie and chips.

Please attend in your numbers as we will open the evening with the AGM, last year's only lasted 25 minutes.

David allows interaction from the audience, so if it is half as good as the foliar feed one it will be a good evening. Refreshments will be served (Pie and Chips last year, lads!) Miss it - miss out.

Pembo has arranged another 'Bring A Bottle Xmas Day Out' at Cleveland GC on Wednesday, December 3 with tee off times between 10.30 and 11.30. There is a maximum of 30 places so please book early. Please ring Pembo on: 07791 695768 to reserve your place. Did you miss out last year? The day was well attended; the weather gorgeous and we all enjoyed it. It will only cost £10 again this year and a wrapped bottle of something alcoholic, you will be fed and able to enjoy the team format that we played last year. It was a breath of fresh air and even the busiest people should be able to get the time off. The day will again be sponsored by Peter Marshall and Tacit and the bottles will be plentiful!

Finally, I would like to wish Tom Fenwick all the best after leaving South Moor GC. Tom worked at 'The Moor' for over 20 years and was rewarded with an Honorary Membership. Well done to SMGC for appreciating Tom's loyal service. He has moved out of greenkeeping and now works for a local sportsground contractor.

Any news to El Prez on 07831 214879  
Terry Charlton



## SHEFFIELD

Greetings to all and welcome to my first Around the Green.

Firstly, I would like to thank John Lax for his service on the Sheffield Section committee, as unfortunately he will be leaving the committee at the AGM. John has recently left Worksop GC after 20 years service to start a new career. On behalf of everyone at the Section I would like to wish John all the best in the future, and hope that we still see him at Section events.

I am sure that you will all want to make my job as easy as possible while I write these notes, so if anyone has any news that they would like in the Section notes then please feel free to contact me.

The Sections Autumn Competition was held at Hallamsire GC, on September 8.

I am sure everyone who played will agree that the day was a great success despite the previous weekends terrible weather conditions.

I would like to thank Hallamshire GC for hosting the day. A big thank you goes to Gordon and his wonderful staff for providing an excellent course. Thanks also go to Glenn Sawyer from Golf and Turf machinery for sponsoring the day and providing an excellent prize table.

The results from the day are as follows:

1. Darren Coop, 36pts - congratulations Darren;
2. Andy Unwin, 35pts;
3. Tony Boyd, 34pts; Guest prize - Tom Strong, 35pts; Nearest the Pin on



the 12th was won by me with a glorious iron shot! And on the 17th by Mark Robinson.

Congratulations also to Tony Boyd who recently became Club Champion at Hickelton GC, Tony shot two rounds of 72 on the par 71 course. Well done Tony.

On the committee front we are busy organising lecture/event days for the coming months, we have several days lined up and are just awaiting confirmation. Members will be informed on these days closer to the time. If any members have any ideas of what they want to see on these days again please feel free to contact me.

Finally, our President Neil Maltby has recently had a hernia operation. I would like to wish him a speedy recovery and hope to see him back to full fitness soon.

J. Stevens  
Section Secretary  
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## NORTH WALES

Halleluiah you have no idea of the hassle I've had putting this month's column together, computers are really useful until they go wrong! What a kerfuffle!

The Autumn Competition and AGM take place at Upton GC on October 8 hopefully this column before will hit your doorstep before then, if not I hope you enjoyed the day and stayed to make any points at the AGM.

How did you get on with the August and September flush, I know the grass on my course was growing so fast it had stretch marks! Now the grass has slowed down we can concentrate on starting our winter upgrade work (something to keep us warm anyway).

Now in local news, Emyr Price, of Royal St Davids, Harlech, has helped raise money for Cancer Research by doing the three peaks challenge on June 23 and 24 in memory of a great friend and member of Royal St Davids, Jim Rees. Emyr did this walk with Jim's sons and friends, achieving a fantastic £36,000 for Cancer Research.

Anyone who has been to Section seminars will know Duncan McGilvray. I hear he married BIGGA's own Rosie Hancher (or should I say McGilvray now).

Last, but not least, congratulations go to Jeremy Hughes and his wife Jayne on the birth of their third daughter Mackenzie Lauren on August 30 weighing in at a bonnie 8lb 2oz.

Pete Maybury  
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Johnny Evans  
Johnny. Evans @tesco.net



## MIDLAND REGION - MIDLANDS

There are a number of you out there that have had the unfortunate pleasure of knowing John Wilkes, who worked at both Fulford Heath and Harborne before being enticed to Scotland by the womanly charms of a wee lassie in Falkirk. Julie is now his wee hen as they tied the knot in August. As the best man I was in fear that I would have to wear a kilt (what with my two bits of string!), but luckily I didn't have to, but I did have a hanky for John's "hayfever!" All the very best to you both for the future from your old friends, the Midland Section.

Now, our old friends at Turner Groundscare are organising a trip to John Deere's UK Headquarters at Langar, Nottingham, in November. The tour will include an incite into their parts department and maintenance service facilities, and of course demonstrations of their extensive machinery inventory. If numbers are sufficient then a coach will be provided with a number of convenient pick-up/drop-off points, a nice spread will also be provided. Please contact either Rob Page on: 07714523128 or Kev Pugh on: 07714523125 to book your place. Please remember such is fully sponsored by Turner's (FREE) and places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

What a band of brothers are featured on this month's calendar page, last year's Midland Section team who played against the East Midlands. Both the annual match and this month's calendar page are kindly sponsored by Rigby Taylor/Tony Cheese. For your fertiliser and pesticide needs email: t.chese@rigbytaylor.com

And finally, congratulations to Andy Brougham on gaining the position as Deputy at Trentham. Now it falls upon you to look after our Chairman Ed, tall order but one I am sure you are up to it Andy.

Right that's me; I'm off for 16 days of fly fishing now.

Sean McDade



## EAST OF ENGLAND

So it's October, another season over again. Hopefully everybody's autumn maintenance programmes went according to plan and everything has recovered well.

We all now start to think about winter renovation projects and new construction work. At Immingham we hope to continue drainage improvements, re-new bunker sand and continue to install new pathways, all subject to having the money to do so obviously.

If anyone has any interesting winter projects going on and would like to share them with everyone then let me know.

Our most recent golf day was our Greenkeepers vs Trade match held at Immingham. Unfortunately I am writing this with my tail between my legs;



# Around the Green

because after all the bragging by myself, our team captain and other team members about how easily we would win, we lost! OK we did play with a man down which did not help, but we all hold our hands up and say you can have the trophy, but we will be back for it next year!

The match went down to the last hole of the last game with Les Howkins taking on Peter Larter and Ian James all by himself. Unfortunately some stunning approach play from the trade pair meant Les was not able to capitalise on his valiant efforts.

Immingham was in excellent condition for the match, even if I do say so myself. I would like to thank all my staff for the hard work they put in leading up to the fixture and also throughout the season. Things did not go according to plan on the morning of the competition, heavy rain both the day before and that morning left many greens with puddles on. However, the sun came out in time for play and dried everything out for us. We also had a hydraulic oil leak on the greensmower on one of the greens. The first one for two years and what a morning for it to happen! Typically the leaking pipe was not in an easy place to remove, however we were able to get it off and went on a mercy dash to our local hydraulic pipe dealers to repair it. We finally finished cutting the greens in pouring rain at about 12 o'clock.

Our next fixture is on October 2 at Belton Park. This is where our annual Section AGM will take place. Details will be with everyone soon.

Steve Beverly  
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www.eastofenglandbigga.com



## BERKS/BUCKS & OXON

August! What a month in our calendar. This so called summer is becoming a distant memory, with wet unpredictable weather the only thing to mention and a Russian winter to look forward to, let's hope we get at least some respite before the nights really start to draw in.

A warm welcome awaited the 50 or so Section members for the BBO Autumn Invitational which took place at Newbury & Crookham GC. A club with golfing history dating back to 1873 to which competitors still play for possibly the oldest trophies in English golf and each I am sure all with a fascinating tale to tell. The amicable Irishman provided us with a memorable test of golf to the delight of all who played.

The results were as follows: 1. Peter Pan and Richard Davis, Berkshire GC; 2. Alec Macindoe and Keith Lawson, Newbury & Crookham GC; 3. Dave Pussycat Lyons and John Bowness, Deanwood Park GC; Nearest the Pin - Robert Hogarth, Remedy Oak GC and Longest Drive - Calum Taylor, Blue Mountain GC, with Carl Small winning the John Deere Putting Competition and Clive Parnell and Gary Taite winning the all important trade prize.

Thanks to Newbury & Crookham GC for courtesy of the course and all the catering and bar staff who provided hospitality ensuring our every need was met, Alec Macindoe and all his green staff for the huge effort throughout the day in preparing first class playing conditions that made for a great day out. Thanks to Ian Richardson, from Headland, for sponsoring this event and Jon Beck for laying on the burgers at the halfway hut.

Thanks to James Moore, from Burdens, who supplied us with tee pegs, golf balls and towel on the first tee to accompany us around the course in our quest to win the day and hopefully not lose the balls on the first strike.

Alistair Higgs is a new man after looking after the interests of Calum's bottom for several years at Blue Mountain GC. He has finally secured his first position as Head Greenkeeper at Donnington Valley GC. Well done and best of luck for the future.

Gerrard's Cross GC has made the local headlines as actor John Nettles and film crew arrived to film a scene for *Midsummer Murders* which will be later screened this year on BBC television, filming took place around the greenkeepers' sheds, while actors were filmed on Lee's oldest redundant but usable National Cutter as it roamed aimlessly up and down the 1st hole cutting everything in its path. I won't spoil the plot but did Lady Penelope have a steamy moment with the Head Greenkeeper? You will just have to wait and see.

On November 20 the Annual AGM and Turkey Trot will be held at Frilford Heath GC. so please pencil this date in your diary and send in your forms early for this event

Greenkeeper Ian Warrender, who knows every hollow and borrow on North Oxford GC has retired after 41 years at the club. Ian, 65, started working on golf courses in his native Scotland more than 50 years ago and moved south with his father, who was also a greenkeeper, tending the greens at several clubs before working at North Oxford.

After his going away party, where he was presented with a cheque, he said: "I do not intend to quit just because time has caught up with me. I shall continue with my interests."

With an all-consuming passion for wildlife he is continuing to improve the habitat of waterfowl on the course and is also looking after the clubhouse gardens.

From all the members in the BB&O have a great retirement.

The section website is alive and kicking, so if you have any news or views, give it a hit! [www.bbo-greenkeepers.co.uk](http://www.bbo-greenkeepers.co.uk)

Mark Day  
[mark.day@taticgolf.com](mailto:mark.day@taticgolf.com)



## SOUTH EAST REGION - SURREY

Friday, September 5. All members of the Surrey Section wish to send their condolences to Jack and Rita McMillan and their family on the sad news relating to their daughter, Heather, whose funeral was held on Tuesday, September 2.

The McMillan Tankard, our Annual Tournament at Sunningdale GC, was played for on Monday, September 1. The new course was in wonderful condition but playing off the white tees with a strong wind the course showed its teeth and only the very best golf would produce a reasonable score. Personally, had I not had the disadvantage of tennis elbow my score would most certainly have been better. However my playing partners, after a slow start, finished in fine fashion and although not in the prizes Douglas Iolanthe Fernie stormed home with 29pts and John, his Chairman of Green





playing off 5, had 18 pts on the back nine.

The really good players - I don't like the word lucky - were Greg Richardson, winner with 34pts. 2nd on count back, Peter Oliver, 33pts; 3. Mark Davis, 33pts; 4th a new Surrey member, Les Howkins, Course Manager at Richmond GC, 33pts. The really, really unlucky golfer was Tom Relf whose score of 15pts would have won him the wooden spoon if we had one. Many thanks to Murray Long and his team for producing, as always, an excellent venue and thanks to the Sunningdale Artisans for the use of their club house and fine wines.

The result of the next golf day at Richmond on September 18 will appear in the November edition of this very magazine.

Mark Raisbeck, Course Manager at Cranleigh GC, is offering a prize to any greenkeeper who can explain to his wife, Liz, who gave birth to their fourth baby on July 16, why he has gone into hiding until their newborn, Jonathan James, 8lb 6ozs, reaches maturity - congratulations to both mum and dad.

The final of the Surrey Bowl knockout competition, sponsored by ETT, was played on Tuesday, September 8, between Gareth Roberts and Paul Bacon, from Hankley Common GC, and Kevin Boxall and James Lowe, from Guildford GC. The venue as in previous years was Foxhills GC and the winners after a very tight contest in very wet conditions were Kevin and James.

The Surrey Health and Safety seminar will now be held at Reigate Hill GC, on October 13, and all will be welcome. Please contact Clive Osgood for details or visit the Surrey Section website: [www.surrey-bigga.co.uk](http://www.surrey-bigga.co.uk)

Beware thieves are about in Surrey so make sure your equipment is safely locked away and protected or they will call one dark and lonely night and leave your sheds empty.

Also beware steps after entering hotel rooms or you may, like yours truly, end up with radiator ear. Radiator ear occurs after falling down said step and splitting your ear on the radiator, having 15 stitches and minor concussion. The inevitable scar is available to see by appointment, as is bedpost foot.

Apologies to Matthew Lawrence and Mrs Lawrence for incorrectly reporting incorrect information.

Brian Willmott



## SUSSEX

With such a poor (or should I say pour) summer, Sussex was indeed fortunate that the sun shone at Piltdown GC for our Annual Team Shield. The Chairman, Rob Hudson, summed it up in with Grace before the meal saying "We thank you for the weather but not for the heather." John Shepherd had prepared the course brilliantly but when that heather grabbed your balls they stayed grabbed!

The day was sponsored by Blade Amenity, represented on this occasion by David Haskell who although taking part failed to trouble the scorers - I know that is a cricket expression but it sums up David's golf superbly. It was nice to see that Brian Willmott took time off from his course studies on 'How to write humorous articles for Greenkeeper International' to bring his team of mercenaries from Surrey on a pot hunting expedition. Joking apart, it is always good to see the Surrey contingent visiting Sussex, especially when they don't win!

The winners of the day were newcomers to Sussex Golf Days and were

from Boars Head GC with a great score of 77 pts, 2nd were 'Team Farrington' and 3rd were Jon Hill and his team from Cooden Beach.

The next fixture on the Sussex Agenda is to be held at the Dyke GC and is a three cornered match between Essex, Surrey, and Sussex.



## KENT

Hi guys. Firstly I shall not be mentioning the weather!

Secondly, this month a massive vote of thanks to David Wood, from Hever GC, who, after several years, has chosen to step down from his position of Kent Section Secretary to concentrate on his many other commitments. David was a big part of the revival of our Section when it lost its way four years ago and restoring it to its current, healthy status.

We thank David for his endeavours and I shall be standing in his secretarial role. On the subject of positions on the Kent committee our AGM will follow our annual Turkey Trot event at Birchwood Park on November 24 where all positions are up for grabs to all attendees. I believe all the current committee are quite happy in their respective roles but if any of you wish to join us or, indeed, take over then please let us know. If you have any major issues you wish to be raised on the night please remember that, constitutionally, you are obliged to submit your questions in writing prior to the event.

Those of you at last year's AGM will remember it as an unforgettable experience as Kev Morris rattled through the formalities in record time in his own inimitable manner to enable the assembled masses to get on with more serious business! Please remember to get your entry forms in ASAP to what promises to be a great day out. More details on the golfing side of things in next month's column.

Best of British guys  
Rob Holland



## EAST ANGLIA

Walderingfield Heath GC – August 12: Our slightly smaller, but perfectly formed band of brothers, and Claire, found their way to Walderingfield Heath GC. If you have never played it, you must as it is lovely. Mind you, most of us who did go didn't play it either, but that's another story!

It was in superb order thanks to Keith Titchell and the crew. It has been several years since I've been there and the transformation is outstanding, especially now that the portacabins have gone.

The few that did actually play did rather well. There are always "the few" who get lucky, and here they are: 0 – 9 Handicap: 1. Nick Brewster,



# Around the Green

38pts; 2. Peter Howard, 36pts; 3. Mike Verley, 36pts. 10 – 18 Handicap: 1. Ian (Lucky) Willett, 38pts; 3. Richard Hurn (Nodzy), 33pts; 3. Neil Worger, 31pts. 19 – 28 Handicap: 1. Steve Freestone, 41pts (He must have trod in something); 2. Pat Swinn, 32pts; 3. Keith Titchell, 31pts. G & T's: 1. John Humphries, 40pts; 2. Mark Keysell – who also won the Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin – black cat's I think!

The winner of the infamous loo seat was the legend among us, Bob Chesham. He actually hit something – it was a bus. Typical, he waits all day for one and then 'takes it out'.

The prizes were presented by the Walderingfield Captain, Les Sharp. Nice tie by the way, where can I get one please?

The main sponsors were Tomlinson Ground Care and our loyal trade guests are as follows: Baileys of Norfolk; Aitkens; SISIS; Bartram Mowers; John Deere; Ben Burgess; Textron; Tomlinson Ground Care;; Tacit; Rigby Taylor; Collier Turf Care and Atterton & Ellis.

Thank you once again Walderingfield for a great day.

Mick Lathrope



## ESSEX

Our Autumn Stableford, at Three Rivers Golf & Country Club, went off without a hitch, the day was warm with some sun and only about three minutes of rain. Although only 26 players took to the 1st tee, all who played said that they had enjoyed the day and I was proud of the way my staff produced the course. Hard work and attention to detail from them all had the course at a good standard. The reason for such a low entry was that a few of the guys had a maintenance week, and then holidays and meetings took in a few more. They missed a good one.

The results are as follows: 1:1 Sam Anderson, 40pts, Three Rivers Golf & Country Club; 2.1 Tony Barker, 38pts, North Weald GC; 3.1 Roland Hughes, 37pts, Forrester Park Golf & TC; 4.1 Nick Gates, 36pts, Abridge GC; Guest Prize: Steve Crosdale, 35pts, Back/9; Trade Prize: Neil Peachey. 38pts, P Tuckwell Ltd; Longest Drive: Nick Gates; Nearest the Pin: Dominic Rogers.

By the time you receive this news the Winter Stableford, at the Bently GC, will be over and the National Championship will be upon us.

Qualifiers for the, National Championship at East Sussex National from our Section are as follows: Knockout Winners 2007: Roland Hughes, Forrester Park Golf & TC, Jammie Hughes, Forrester Park Golf & TC. Spring Tournament Qualifiers: Adam Millward, Orsett GC and Daniel Hughes, Forrester Park Golf & TC. Summer Trophy Qualifiers: Dominic Rogers, Warley Park GC: Antony Kirwan, Lexdon Wood GC. Autumn Tournament Qualifiers: Sam Anderson, Three Rivers Golf & Country Club, Tony Barker, North Weald GC.

Good luck to all the lads in the event.

On the education front, Paul is hoping to run a morning seminar in late January early February. This he hopes will consist of three to four speakers from different parts of the country speaking for a maximum of 40 minutes, with a brunch included. Cost at the moment is being considered. Non-Association members will be welcome. Details of date and time will be

coming shortly, so watch this space.

The time for our AGM and Christmas tournament is fast approaching, the team format is the same as last year, two BIGGA members per team, so start getting your four together.

Details and links to all our sponsors can be found on the website along with links to other interesting sites. With up to date information and other things.

[www.essexbigga.co.uk](http://www.essexbigga.co.uk)

Please contact me at [essexbigga@talktalk.net](mailto:essexbigga@talktalk.net)  
or call me on  
01206852353 – 07764862337

Arnold Phipps-Jones



## SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES REGION - SOUTH WEST

Writing this with yet more rain lashing against the window, and have just returned from the Secretary's office after cancelling the Club Championship. What a season.

More congratulations to the Section Team, ably captained by Wayne Vincent and Paul Garland, who thrashed the South Coast team by four matches to one at Remedy Oak. Having played (and lost heavily) in the match myself, I was very impressed with the work that has gone on at Remedy, and can confirm that it is thoroughly deserving of its reputation as being on the verge of the top 100 courses.

A very good day out, and thanks very much to the South Coast for arranging the match at such a prestigious, yet friendly club. We were made very welcome, both for the match and the meal afterwards – all round a very good day.

I am very pleased to announce that next year's game, while not being played at Remedy, is being played at a course in our area which is just as prestigious and challenging. This week's prize will be awarded to the first greenkeeper to correctly identify it.

Looking forward now to the AGM on October 9 at Marlborough. Please come along and make a difference to your Section. The Committee are always open to ideas, but if you disagree with anything that's going on, why not stand, and really make a difference.

One of the major issues in the coming year will be attendance at Section events. So do please come along, and if you'd like to invite a club official to come and see what we're about, please do so.

There is a seminar on Bunker maintenance and renovation which will take place on October 30 at The Bristol GC. This will feature, among others, Laurence Pithie and Richard Whyman talking about different styles of bunker, construction, renovation and maintenance, and hopefully a well-known Professional Golfer talking about how he hopes to find a bunker when he walks into it. Do please keep an eye on the website for some further advertising, and details will be circulated round to your Secretary's office.

Excavator Safety Training will be on-going with hopefully a day down at





Farrington Gurney in early December. Please do register an interest – for those of us that do regularly use an excavator, being certificated is a must. Interestingly, completing this course earlier this year has enabled me to make a case for actually purchasing an excavator here at Minch, which is something we've been after for a few years. Do give me a call if you'd like to attend, or if you'd like a course in your neck of the woods.

The final event of the year is likely to be a Frank Newberry inspired seminar with the theme of "Keeping your Club Competitive" – very relevant in today's uncertain economic climes. Again, please watch the website Bulletin Boards for further details, and invitations will be circulated via your Secretary's office.

Finally, we are working on our communication (with the help of Frank Newberry). Please send me an email, so that I can begin to build a database to assist with communication. Letters in the post are too onerous for part-time officials such as Nobby and myself – email is the way forward – with your help.

Next year's fixtures are nearly complete – watch this space for a comprehensive list.

Paul Worster paulw@mgcnew.co.uk  
01453 837355



## SOUTH COAST

Hi all. This is my first monthly report taking over from Joe Crawley who did a first class job.

As I write this we at Andover GC have been hollow coring and top dressing during the very wet first week of September - as you can imagine with only two greenkeepers it was a slow process unlike the larger golf clubs that have more members of staff! But I'm not complaining, I'm used to it, my season went very well how did yours?

Last month's committee meeting went well unlike the annual match v the South West Section which didn't. Resulting in a big away win for them (don't let this happen again)

Thanks go to all at Remedy Oak for making it easy for the away team!

The Autumn Tournament is on October 9 at Salisbury & South Wilts so contact Kevin Glass at: glassy2003@hotmail.com or: 07859053054.

During the last committee meeting it was discussed of some interest in going to Gurnsey for next year's Spring Tournament if you are interested in this option then email and let me know at: chrismaggisturgess@tiscali.co.uk

Hope you all have a trouble free autumn until next month.


Chris Sturgess

### 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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# In the Shed

## ANSWERS

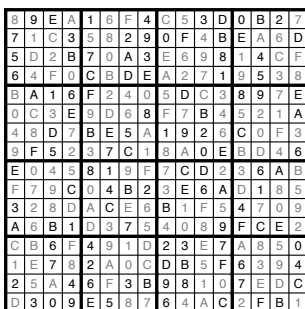
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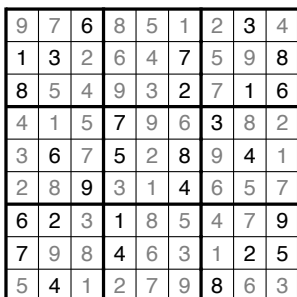
### ANSWERS:

1. Australia
2. Martin Peters
3. Darts
4. Tennis
5. Harvard
6. Martin Bartoli
7. Jenson Button
8. Timmy Murphy
9. Stuart Broad

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